MARVEL

SCARLET SPIDER®

LIFE AFTER DEATH

YOST • STEGMAN • EDWARDS

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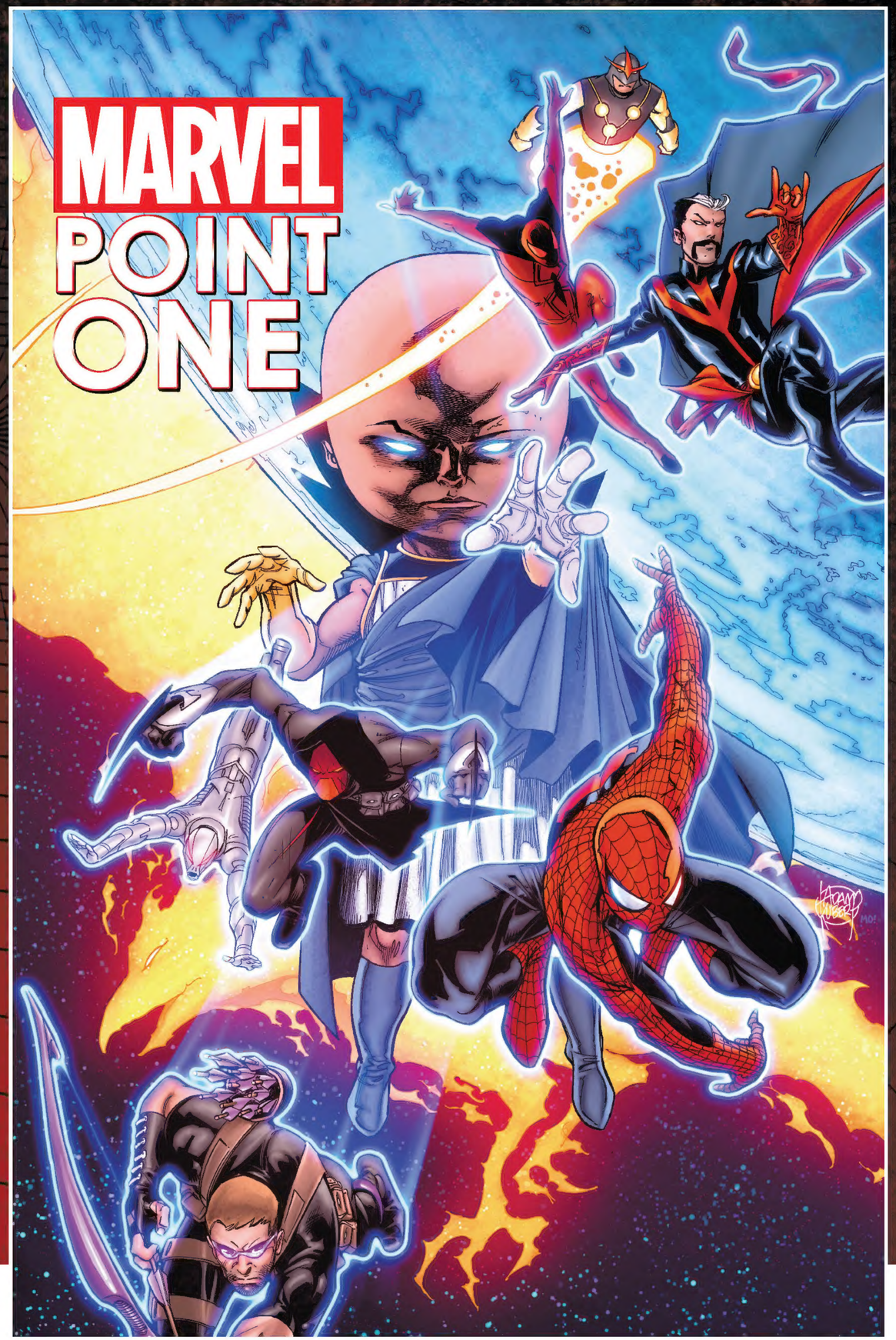


Charlotte, North Carolina.

IT'S BEEN FOUR DAYS SINCE NEW YORK.

FOUR DAYS SINCE EVERYTHING CHANGED.

TICKET TOOK THE LAST OF MY CASH. HAVE TO CATCH THIS BUS.

FIVE DAYS AGO, I WOULD HAVE KNOCKED ALL THESE PEOPLE ASIDE, STEPPED OVER THEIR BROKEN BODIES TO GET WHAT I WANTED.

BUT NOW...

NOW ALL I CARE ABOUT IS BRINGING AS LITTLE ATTENTION TO MYSELF AS POSSIBLE. POLICE, FBI, AVENGERS... THEY'RE ALL ONE STEP BEHIND ME FOR ALL I KNOW.

HOUSTON, TX

D

GET OUT OF THE CITY, GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY...MEXICO, THEN...THEN...*AWAY*. ANYWHERE I WANT.

A NEW LIFE. I ALMOST LAUGH AT THE IDEA OF IT.

I DON'T REMEMBER EVER WANTING TO LAUGH BEFORE.

THAT'S WHEN THE UNIVERSE REMINDS ME WHY.

B

KRA-THOOM

MY NAME IS KAINE.

AND THIS IS NOT MY LIFE.

BANK

ONCE, I WOULD HAVE SEEN IT COMING...MY, I GUESS YOU'D CALL IT "SPIDER-SENSE." IT WAS LIKE I COULD SEE THE FUTURE. BUT NOW...I SEE NOTHING.

SO I *LISTEN*. PEOPLE, SCREAMING, RUNNING... GUNFIRE...I MAY NOT BE A GENIUS, BUT I'M GOING TO GO WITH 'BANK ROBBERY.'

POLICE. THE LAST THING I WANT.

THEY'LL DEAL WITH IT. THEY'LL STOP THE FEAR, STOP THE MEN WITH GUNS. SAVE LIVES.

WEEOOOOOOOOO...

POLICE

OR MAYBE PEOPLE WILL BE HURT. MAYBE PEOPLE WILL DIE. I CAN'T SEE IT, NOT ANYMORE.

SO LET THEM DEAL WITH IT. LET THEM SAVE LIVES.

THIS IS NOT MY LIFE. THIS IS NOT WHO I AM.

DOORS ARE *CLOSING*, PAL!

ARE YOU COMING, OR *NOT*?!

PEOPLE DIE.

NO ONE KNOWS THAT BETTER THAN ME...EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY.

A GOD-FORSAKEN, FAILED EXPERIMENT OF A MADMAN. BORN IN A LAB, THROWN AWAY LIKE TRASH.

THE IMPERFECT CLONE OF PETER PARKER.

THE LEFT HAND OF SPIDER-MAN.

AND SINCE THE MOMENT OF MY "*BIRTH*," SOMETHING WAS KILLING ME... CELLULAR DEGENERATION, THE MADMAN CALLED IT. INCH BY INCH, MY LIFE WAS SLIPPING AWAY. DEATH WAS INEVITABLE.

UNTIL NEW YORK. UNTIL THE QUEEN.

NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME...I'M NOT DYING. MY MIND IS CLEAR, MY BODY TRANSFORMED...

A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE.

BUT I'M NOT PETER PARKER. EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING TELLS ME TO RUN, TO GET AWAY...

I'M NO HERO... I'M THE MONSTER OF THE STORY. I'VE DONE TERRIBLE THINGS.

I'M NOT PETER PARKER...

...BUT I CAN FEEL *SOMETHING* INSIDE ME.

LIKE A VOICE, GNAWING AT ME.

I AM NOT PETER PARKER.

BUT I CAN FEEL HIM JUDGING ME.

INTERSTATE

THIS IS NOT ME.

ALL I WANT IS *LIFE.*

TO PUT MY FEET IN THE OCEAN, FEEL THE SUN ON MY FACE, AND NOT THINK ABOUT *DYING* FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.

HEY!

TO START OVER. A SECOND CHANCE.

AND I'LL HAVE IT.

RED LINE

RIGHT AFTER THIS.

Queen City Bank.

--A PRIVATE JET? WE DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF--

NO, DON'T! LOOK...I'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO, JUST DON'T HURT ANYONE. YOU HAVE TO GIVE US SOME TIME...

S.W.A.T. SHOULD BE HERE. WE NEED SNIPERS.

YOU'RE AN IDIOT, YOU KNOW THAT? YOU'RE--

--HOLY CRAP.

YOU PEOPLE JUST DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD, AND YOU'LL LIVE THROUGH THIS. IF YOU DON'T... YOU *DIE*.

HEY, COP! DID YOU JUST CALL ME AN IDIOT?!

DO YOU WANT THESE PEOPLE DEAD?!

YOU GET ME THOSE VANS, YOU GET THAT JET READY, OR LITTLE *JESSICA* HERE IS GOING TO HAVE THE WORST DAY OF HER LIFE!!

THWIP

THWIP

UH...GLEN? GLEN, I--

DO YOU--

AIIIEEE!!

--HEAR ME?!

YOU'RE ALL DEAD MEN.

I'M THE MONSTER.

UDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUD

CATCH!

IT'S ALL I'VE EVER KNOWN.

KILL HIM!!!

PAIN. VIOLENCE. FEAR.

THAT WAS MY LIFE.

THUD!

UHHN!

BUT WHO SAYS IT HAS TO BE THAT WAY AGAIN?

THIS TIME...

...MAYBE THINGS CAN BE DIFFERENT.

I TEAR THROUGH THESE MEN LIKE THEY WERE NOTHING.

I BREAK BONES AND RIP FLESH WITHOUT THINKING TWICE ABOUT IT.

KILLING THIS FILTH WOULD BE THE MOST NATURAL THING IN THE WORLD.

THEY PROBABLY DESERVE IT.

JUST... JUST STAY BACK.

STAY BACK, OR I'LL KILL YOU!! I'LL KILL THEM ALL!!

=MMMH=

AND NOW I HAVE ANOTHER CHOICE TO MAKE.

DEATH IS THE ONLY THING I'VE EVER KNOWN.

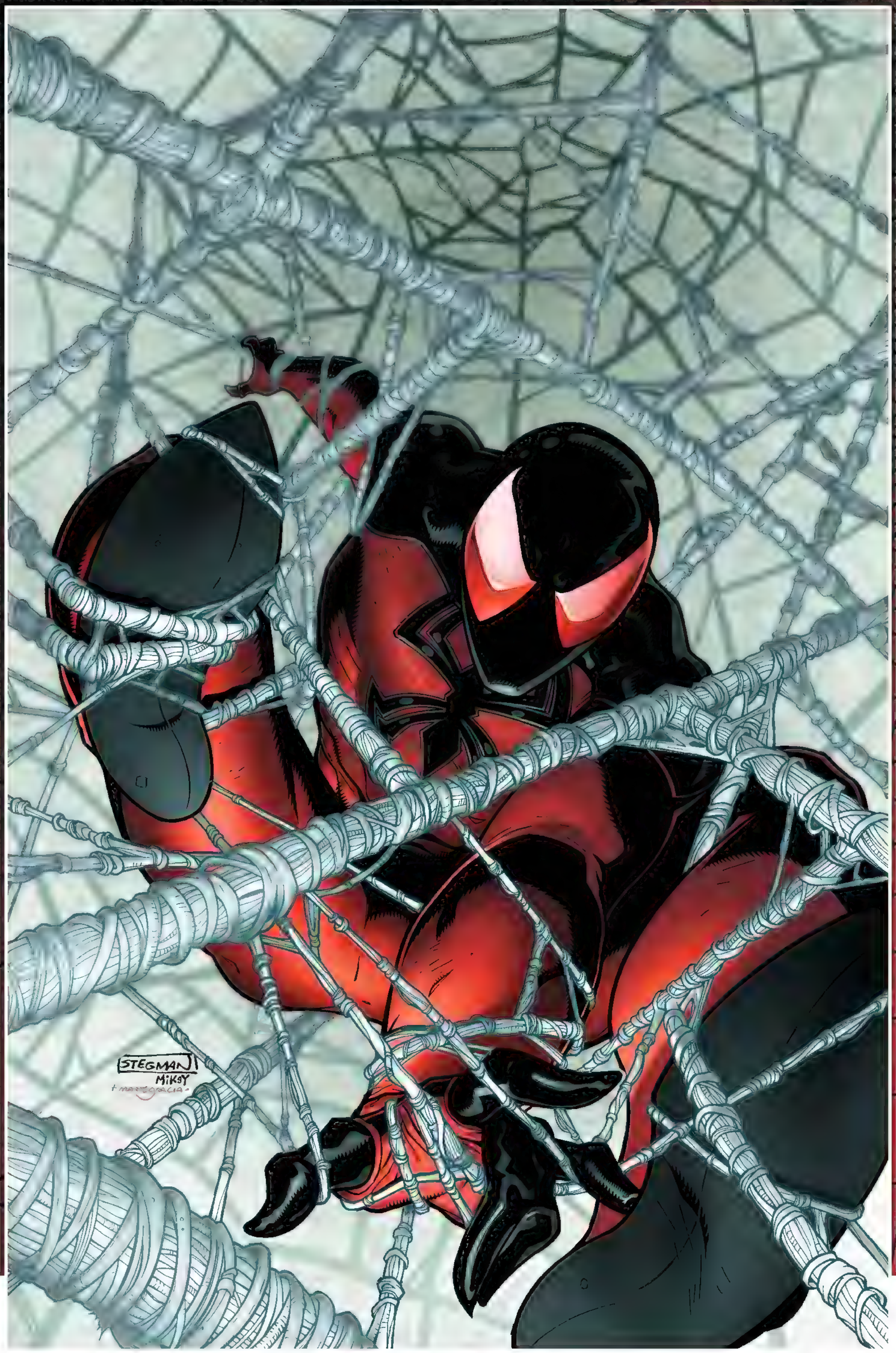
I'M THE MONSTER. ALL MY LIFE, I'VE LIVED WITH ITS SPECTER HANGING OVER ME.

BUT...

...WHAT IF?

FREEZE!

AAAHH!
GET ME OUT OF HERE!
GET ME OUUUT!!
WHAT IF THINGS COULD BE DIFFERENT NOW?
I WAS A MONSTER
I DID BAD THINGS
WHAT IF NOW NOW THAT I'M NOT DYING
WHAT IF I COULD TRULY LIVE?
IT'S GOING TO RAIN ALL THE WAY TO MEXICO I BET
I SURE AS @#$% AM NOT PETER PARKER
BUT I MIGHT HAVE HIS LUCK
EXIT ONLY
EXIT ONLY
INTERSTATE
SOUTH
85


STEGMAN
MIKEY

DB

GANGLAND MASSACRED OF THE KAINE HAVE NO SUSPECTS WAY A MAN DID THIS

THE JACKAL!

WAS DOCTOR MILES WARREN, AND HOW DID WHO WARPED THEORIES ON CLONING AFFECT THE HIS WARPED AMAZING SPIDER-MAN?

IT HOUSTON!

FINAL

DAILY BUGLE

NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

INSIDE: MATT MURDOCK'S SNOW SURVIVAL STORY (DOES THIS PROVE NEW SPIDER-MAN SPOTTED IN HOUSTON? – POLICE SUSPECT

MYSTERIOUS STRANGER MANHANDLES THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS OF THIS EPIC FIGHT – ON-LOOKERS SAY THE MYSTERIOUS KAINE MATCHED SPIDER-MAN PUNCH FOR PUNCH!

HORIZON

DAILY BUGLE

TOP STORY

A SPIDER-MAN SAVES THE CITY!

BUT WHICH ONE WAS HE?

S AT HORIZON LABS TO FIND THE NEXT FF THE SUCESS OF IE SPIDER ISLAND WONDERING WHAT ON THIS BRAIN NEXT. RECENTLY S AROUND? IN THE D, THESE EVENTS ONDERING WHAT TO FACE NEXT.

/ BEN URICH, Editor In Chief

ew York City was rescued form an estation that transformed its human zens into Spider-Creatures. Leading heroes charge wasn't it

VIRAL VIDEO

The Port Of Houston, TX.
1:00 A.M.

WHEN IT COMES TO FOREIGN SHIPPING, HOUSTON IS THE BUSIEST PORT IN THE UNITED STATES.

THAT'S WHAT THE MAN WITH THE SNAKESKIN JACKET SAID

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HOUSTON HAD A PORT.

AND NOW THAT I KNOW, I STILL DON'T CARE

BUT THE MAN IN THE SNAKESKIN JACKET CARED. HE TALKED AND TALKED AND TALKED IN THAT BAR. WOULDN'T SHUT UP ABOUT IT.

HE TALKED ABOUT THE *DEAL*

HE TALKED ABOUT THE *MONEY*.

HE TALKED TOO MUCH, TOO LOUD, WITHOUT LOOKING TO SEE WHO WAS LISTENING.

THAT WAS A MISTAKE.

THE MAN IN THE SNAKESKIN JACKET THINKS HE AND HIS FRIENDS ARE UNTOUCHABLE

THAT'S A MISTAKE, TOO

WE WOULD SEE THE PRODUCT NOW.

IN TIME.

OPEN THEM.

GOD. IT'S GOOD. IT'S REALLY GOOD.

BRAAAAP BRAAAP

AAAAHHHH!

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

THAT'S *NICHOLAS*. SOMEONE IS HERE.

I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!!

YOUR *WOLVES* HAD BETTER NOT BE TRYING TO--

AAAIEEEEE--

SPAK

SPOK

SPOK

SPAK

THWIP

HOLD YOUR FIRE! YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE--

AAAAAHH!

DAMMIT...

SHOW YOURSELF! WE CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT HERE...SOMETHING TO ALL OF OUR BENEFIT.

WE CAN NEGOTIATE!

HELLO?

THAP

RUN AWAY.

BEFORE I KILL YOU ALL.

MY NAME IS KAINE

AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF NEGOTIATING

SHOOT HIM!

NEITHER DO THEY, APPARENTLY

BUT I NEVER EXPECTED THEM TO. THEY'RE BAD PEOPLE. AND I KNOW ALL ABOUT BAD PEOPLE.

BECAUSE I'M ONE OF THEM.

THE SCARLET SPIDER

LIFE AFTER DEATH

KILLING THEM ALL FEELS *RIGHT*. IT FEELS LIKE *INSTINCT*.

STILL GETTING USED TO THE *WEBS*.

THEY'RE USEFUL.

THWIP

THWIP

SO'S BEING ABLE TO SEE IN THE DARK. THAT'S NEW, TOO.

THESE MEN ARE CRIMINALS. WHO KNOWS HOW MANY PEOPLE THEY'VE HURT, HOW MANY LIVES THEY'VE DESTROYED WITH THE CRAP THEY'RE TRANSPORTING?

BUT DESPITE ALL THAT, SOMETHING IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD STOPS ME FROM KILLING THEM.

BARELY

WHO ELSE WANTS TO NEGOTIATE?

PLEASE...ALL I WAS DOING WAS DELIVERING THE *PAYMENT*...I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH--

SHUT UP.

OH, GOD, PLEASE, IT WASN'T ME...

DO YOU THINK I CARE?

RUN.

SMART MAN. BUT ALL THIS... DUMB LUCK.

I STUMBLED ONTO THIS BY SHEER DUMB LUCK. JUST LOOKING FOR SOME LOWLIFES TO ROLL.

THWIP!

THWIP!

WHAT I SAID TO HIM WAS TRUE. WHATEVER THEY'RE DOING, I DON'T CARE.

I HAVE TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY. I NEED MONEY TO DO IT.

I GOT WHAT I CAME FOR.

CREE CREE

CREE CREE

AND THEN... I SMELL IT

CREE. CREE

WHATEVER THIS IS, WHATEVER THEY'RE TRYING TO MOVE HERE...

IT'S NOT DRUGS.

THEY'RE DEAD. THEY'RE ALL DEAD.

THE HEAT...THE SMELL... IT'S OVERWHELMING THEY MUST HAVE COOKED ALIVE INSIDE THIS THI--

...

SALVAME

Park Plaza Hospital, Houston Medical Center.
1:45 A.M.

DID YOU HAVE TO SHOOT HIM?

YES, "DOCTOR," I HAD TO SHOOT HIM! HE WAS POINTING A GUN AT ME. WOULD YOU PREFER I GOT SHOT?

HELL YES, I WOULD!

I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU, IDIOT.

YOU'RE HARASSING MY PATIENT, WALLY.

IT'S OFFICER *LAYTON*, DOCTOR.

OH, PLEASE.

THIS @#$%#& *HURTS!* I NEED SOME PAIN MEDS!

SHUT UP. AND DON'T GIVE HIM ANY, DONALD!

I STILL NEED TO QUESTION MISTER IDIOT.

CHOOM

WHAT THE HELL--

SOMEBODY...

...SAVE HER.

OR I SWEAR YOU'LL--

JILLIAN! I NEED SOME HELP OVER HERE!

PUT THE GIRL DOWN, RIGHT--

WHAT--?

URFF!

DO. NOT. THREATEN. ME.

OH, PLEASE.

PLEASE... DON'T HURT HIM.

MMRFF!

I JUST... I DIDN'T MEAN...

UHN!

THE PORT. IN THE CONTAINERS. THERE ARE BODIES, *LOTS* OF THEM.

AND BRING BACKUP, OFFICER.

Route 59 South.
3:10 A.M.

I'VE BEEN ON THE MOVE FOR WEEKS, ALL THE WAY FROM NEW YORK.

UNTIL NOW, I'D BEEN STAYING OFF MAJOR ROADS, TAKING THE OCCASIONAL BUS, DOUBLING BACK TO MAKE SURE NO ONE'S FOLLOWING...

...BUT I KNOW THEY ARE. THE POLICE, THE F.B.I., THE AVENGERS...AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE DONE, THEY HAVE TO COME FOR ME.

AND I CAN'T GO BACK. NOT NOW.

59
Victoria
Mexico

SO I RUN

BUT I'VE BEEN RUNNING SO LONG, ALL MY LIFE. AND NOW...

...NOW EVERYTHING'S CHANGED.

AND AS MUCH AS I KNOW THEY'LL COME FOR ME... THERE'S BEEN NO SIGN. SO MANY WEEKS SINCE "SPIDER-ISLAND," AND NOTHING...

JUST ONE NIGHT. I COULD LAY LOW, AND FOR JUST ONE NIGHT...

FOR JUST ONE NIGHT I COULD BREATHE.

LAY LOW. DON'T DRAW ATTENTION TO YOURSELF.

ONE NIGHT.

JUST LAY LOW.

The Four Seasons, Downtown Houston.
4:25 A.M.

I COULD HAVE PROBABLY MADE BETTER CHOICES IN LAYING LOW.

PAYING FOR A TWO THOUSAND DOLLAR A NIGHT SUITE IN CASH INVITES ATTENTION.

FSSH

BRIBING THE STAFF TO OPEN THE KITCHEN AND ORDERING EVERYTHING OFF THE MENU...NOT INCONSPICUOUS.

SSHH

BUT DAMN, IT FELT GOOD

DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I WAS IN THE SHOWER. COULDN'T TELL YOU HOW LONG IT'D BEEN SINCE MY LAST ONE.

BUT SEEING MYSELF IN THE MIRROR STOPS ME DEAD IN MY TRACKS.

THE MAN LOOKING BACK AT ME...EVEN WITH THE BEARD AND LONG HAIR...IT'S NOT ME.

THE SCARS... THEY COVERED MY FACE, MY WHOLE BODY

BUT NOW THE SCARS ARE GONE.

THE SCARS ARE GONE AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I'M *ALIVE*.

KAINE IS...

STILL RIGHT HERE

SPAK!

THIS IS WHO I REALLY AM

KAINE

VILLAIN

ASSASSIN

FAILURE

DEAD MAN

I HAD NO MOTHER. MY FATHER WAS A MADMAN.

THE JACKAL CREATED ME IN A LAB WITH DNA STOLEN FROM HIS STUDENT PETER PARKER. I WAS TO BE A PAWN IN HIS REVENGE ON *SPIDER-MAN*.

BUT I WAS A FAILURE. WHILE I WAS MORE POWERFUL THAN SPIDER-MAN, I WAS IMPERFECT.

CELLULAR DEGENERATION CLOUDED MY MIND AND SCARRED MY BODY...IN TIME, IT WOULD KILL ME. MONTHS, HE SAID, NOT YEARS.

SO RATHER THAN BE REMINDED OF HIS OWN FAILURE, THE ONLY FATHER I EVER KNEW TRIED TO KILL ME.

HE THREW ME AWAY LIKE SO MUCH GARBAGE.

I COULDN'T THINK...BUT I SURVIVED. I FOUND A WAY TO SLOW THE DEGENERATION.

AND I FOUND A *PURPOSE*.

ANOTHER CLONE OF PARKER CALLING HIMSELF *BEN REILLY* THREATENED TO DESTROY PARKER'S LIFE. OR SO MY SICK MIND BELIEVED.

IN MY MADNESS, I HUNTED HIM. I TORMENTED HIM. ALL TO SAVE PARKER.

OR TO SAVE THE CLONE. I DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYMORE.

IN THE END, REILLY DIED AT THE HANDS OF A DIFFERENT MONSTER. AND I... I FOUND A WAY TO SAVE PARKER.

I DIED FOR HIM.

BUT THERE WOULD BE NO PEACE FOR ME.

THE JACKAL, IN SERVICE TO THE QUEEN, REVIVED ME. TURNED ME INTO A *MONSTER*. A BODY TO MATCH MY SOUL.

BUT THIS TIME, PARKER SAVED ME.

IN EVERY WAY YOU CAN BE SAVED.

WITH PARKER'S HELP, MY BODY AND MIND WERE HEALED...

BUT I CAN'T FORGET THE *KILLER* I USED TO BE.

IT WILL ALWAYS BE WITH ME.

THE SCARS ARE GONE.

THE DEGENERATION IS *GONE*.

FSSS

BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE... I'M NOT *DYING*.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I REALIZE I DON'T HAVE TO BE THE MAN I SEE IN THE MIRROR.

I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO FORGET MY PAST...

SZZT

BUT I CAN BE SOMEONE *BETTER*.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...

I'M ALIVE

I CAN THINK CLEARLY

SEE CLEARLY

FEEL

MY GOD

...WEBS!

I CAN SEE WHY SPIDER-MAN DOES THIS.

The Port.

"WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?"

HUMAN TRAFFICKING, LAYTON. WE'VE SEEN IT BEFORE. NOT THIS BAD, THOUGH. NOT IN THE *CITY*.

HAD THE WOMEN AND GIRLS SURVIVED, THEY'D HAVE BEEN SOLD INTO PROSTITUTION. THE MEN, AS LABOR.

SOMEONE *PAID* FOR THESE PEOPLE?

TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE MAN AT THE HOSPITAL.

HE...HE WAS BIG. STRONG. HE LIFTED ME UP...

OFFICERS!

IS THAT HIM?

NO... THAT'S NOT--

BURN.

"THE SUN IS BARELY UP..."

HOW CAN IT BE SO HOT?

AND HUMID IT'S LIKE MY SWEAT IS SWEATING

WELCOME TO HOUSTON I GUESS

SQUAAAA!!

AAH!!

THAT SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF ME

IT SURPRISED ME

THAT'S THAT. THEN. NO MORE SPIDER-SENSE NO PRECOGNITIVE FLASHES. NO EARLY WARNING. NO NOTHING

THE FUTURE'S WIDE OPEN.

I'M GOING TO *MEXICO*, FIND MYSELF A NICE BEACH AND BUY IT.

I'M GOING TO PUT MY TOES IN THE WATER AND SAND AND DRINK MARGARITAS AND--

SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

--WHAT?

NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT

RIGHT?

VRRRMMMMMMMMMM--

BOOM!

AAIIEE!!

THAT CAR, IT WOULD HAVE--

THANK YOU... THANK YOU, YOU SAVED ME...

SHE'S...SHE'S LOOKING AT ME. WITHOUT SCREAMING OR CRYING.

SHE COULD HAVE GOTTEN *KILLED*.

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR ⁘⁘⁘⁘ *MIND*, OLD WOMAN? YOU SHOULDN'T BE WANDERING OUT IN THE ⁘⁘⁘⁘ *STREET!* YOU'RE TOO ⁘⁘⁘⁘ *OLD* AND TOO ⁘⁘⁘⁘ *SLOW!* WHAT IF I HADN'T BEEN THERE, YOU'D BE ⁘⁘⁘⁘ *DEAD!*

OH MY GOD...

LOOK!

WHAT NOW?

NO

THE DRIVER

hyuuh--

WHEN I STOPPED THE CAR, HE MUST HAVE...

HE MUST HAVE BEEN THROWN.

I WATCH AS PEOPLE GATHER AROUND HIM

NO ONE ATTACKING ME OR POINTING AND SCREAMING AT ME...

THEY JUST WANT TO HELP

WEEE-OOO WEEE-OOO

I JUST WANT TO RUN.

HOWEVER LONG YOU'RE STAYING, YOU SHOULD STAY ***LONGER***. REALLY ***SEE*** IT. FOR REAL, HOUSTON IS THE ***BEST***.

ALTHOUGH NORMALLY WE DON'T SERVE ALCOHOL BEFORE NOON.

WE HAVE COFFEE, TOO. HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT DOWNTOWN YET?

...YES. A LITTLE.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? YOUR ACCENT IS FUNNY.

ALL OVER.

DO THEY HAVE NAMES FROM THERE?

...YES.

ANOTHER.

TURN THAT UP.

CHARLIE CAMPBELL

--BURNED THE BODIES, FROM WHAT WE CAN SEE. MULTIPLE POLICE ON THE SCENE ARE EITHER DEAD OR INJURED, THE MAN RESPONSIBLE HAS APPARENTLY FLED THE SCENE.

THE BODIES WERE ORIGINALLY FOUND EARLIER THIS MORNING AT THE PORT OF HOUSTON...

...WITH A LONE SURVIVOR BROUGHT TO PARK PLAZA HOSPITAL...

IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM.

I WAS STUPID TO GET INVOLVED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I'VE GOT A NEW CHANCE AT LIFE I'M NOT GOING TO BLOW IT

I'M NOT HIM. I'M NOT PARKER.

I'M NOT GOING TO WASTE MY LIFE TRYING TO BE A HERO

THIS IS NOT MY PROBLEM.

‹HNNN... WHERE--›

‹WHERE AM I--?›

‹IT'S OKAY, HONEY. WE'RE JUST MOVING YOU.›

‹EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.›

THERE HE IS!!

WATCH OUT!!

TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH.

BLAM! BLAM!

AAAAHHH!!

‹WHERE AM I?! WHAT IS HAPPENING?›

‹YOU'RE IN THE HOSPITAL... WE HAVE TO GO...›

‹...BECAUSE WE ARE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.›

‹HELLO, ARACELY.›
‹ARE YOU READY TO JOIN THE OTHERS? ARE YOU READY TO BURN?›
‹BECAUSE THIS TIME...›
"‹...THERE IS NO ONE TO SAVE YOU.›"

2

MY NAME IS KAINE...AND I WAS BORN A MONSTER.

WHEN HE SAW WHAT HE HAD CREATED, MY FATHER TRIED TO KILL ME.

YOU'RE A MISCALCULATION! A FAILURE!

YOU'RE NOT *REAL!*

NOW STOP RUNNING SO I CAN *SHOOT* YOU!

KA HAHAHA HA!!

I WAS REJECTED. ABANDONED.

BLAM BLAM

GENETIC TRASH, THE JACKAL CALLED ME. BIO-WASTE.

GARBAGE, TO BE DISPOSED OF.

IN SPITE OF ALL THIS, SOMETHING WITHIN ME CRIED OUT... SOMETHING FOUGHT

...TO LIVE.

SAVE ME.

Now. LEAVING HOUSTON.

AND RIGHT THIS MINUTE, THAT'S ALL I CARE ABOUT.

THIS WAS A MISTAKE. I NEVER SHOULD HAVE STAYED.

I'VE GOT A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE. SO I'M GOING TO *LIVE* IT.

STICK TO THE PLAN. GET TO MEXICO AND START OVER.

TURN MY BACK ON ALL THE--

KRAKOOOM!

--MADNESS

DAMMIT.

WHERE IS THAT?

I ALREADY KNOW.

THE MEDICAL CENTER...WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

SOMEONE IS GOING AFTER THE GIRL I SAVED.

THE GIRL WHO ASKED ME.

SALVAME.

GET OUT OF THE CAR.

WHAT?! I CAN'T--

KHOOM!

SKREEEEEEEE

AAAHH!

WHY THE HELL AM I DOING THIS?!

IT'S JUST... IT'S SO *STUPID*. THIS GIRL. SHE'S NOTHING TO ME.

FIVE MINUTES.

DEAL WITH THIS AND THEN I'M GONE. THEN I CAN FINALLY START OVER.

JUST FIVE MORE MINUTES.

Park Plaza Hospital, Medical Center.

KOFF *KOFF* *KOFF!*

‹YOU FEEL IT, DON'T YOU? THE HEAT, SEARING YOUR LUNGS. BURNING YOUR EYES.›*

‹THE KISS OF THE *FIRE SERPENT*.›

TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

‹THE KISS OF XIUHCOATL.›

‹NOW...TELL ME WHERE THE GIRL IS, OR IT WILL BE THE LAST THING YOU EVER FEEL.›

OH, GOD... PLEASE...

‹I--I DON'T KNOW...I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS! SHE RAN, THE SMOKE...›

YOUR ACCENT IS INSULTING. BUT LYING...THAT WAS A *POOR* DECISION, DOCTOR.

NOW TELL ME...HAVE YOU EVER FELT YOUR FLESH MELT?

NO!

AAHH!

FWOOSH!

FWOOSH!

AAIIEE!

LET HER G-- UHN!

DO NOT EMBARRASS YOURSELF, FAT MAN.

WHAK

ARACEEEELLLY...

‹GETAWAY GETAWAY GETAWAY!›

‹LEAVE ME ALONE!›

‹YOU KNOW I CANNOT DO THAT, ARACELY.›

‹WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!›

‹DO NOT PLAY GAMES, YOU--›

‹WHO ARE YOU!?›

‹YOU... YOU DO NOT REMEMBER. THAT IS... AMUSING.›

‹TO DIE, NOT KNOWING WHY...IT IS SO...SO...›

DIOS.

GUY'S GOT SOME NICE INK. BUT WHAT *REALLY* GRABS MY ATTENTION IS THAT HE'S THROWING *FIRE*.

THIS MAY TAKE MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES.

BACK OFF!

THE GIRL. IT'S AMAZING SHE'S EVEN STANDING AFTER WHAT SHE SURVIVED.

SHE GOT A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE, AND NOW SOMEONE'S TRYING TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM HER.

GET HIM OUT! THERE'S HUNDREDS OF PATIENTS HERE!

THE DOCTOR. I SAW HIM, THE NIGHT I BROUGHT THE GIRL IN.

HE'S HURT. THE PLACE IS BURNING DOWN AROUND HIM. ALL HE'S THINKING ABOUT ARE THE PATIENTS.

FINALLY.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO FIGHT A SUPER HERO.

BAD NEWS, THEN.

AND HIM. YOU CAN SEE IT IN HIS EYES...THE EXCITEMENT.

HE'S NOT WORRIED ABOUT ME AT ALL.

BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT FIGHTING ONE NOW.

YEARGHH!

SHRIP!

<DEAD MAN.>

FWOOOSH!

AHHH!

I'M BURNING. I'M BURNING I--

NNNYAAAAAAA!

<WHERE ARE YOU, GIRL?>

PSSSHHHH!

ARACEEEEELLLYY...

KSSS!

‹THE SPIDER-MAN BURNS LIKE ANYONE ELSE.›

‹YOUR SAVIOR IS DEAD.›

‹AND YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHY. THAT'S SO FUNNY.›

AAH!

GIRL...

...YOU'RE IN MY WAY.

I DON'T KNOW WHY HE'S AFTER HER.

HURK!

I DON'T CARE

ALL I CARE ABOUT NOW IS KILLING HIM

ITOM!

HURR... HNN...

<YOU'RE DEAD... YOU'RE DE-->

HKK!

HNN... HNNN... NNN--!

WHA--

YOU THINK YOU CAN KILL *ME*, SPIDER-MAN?!

I WAS GIVEN FIRE BY GOD!

WHAM!

UHN!

BY THE SERPENT *XIUHCOATL!*

THUD!

FREEZE!

BOTH OF YOU DOWN ON THE GROUND, OR...OR I'LL SHOOT!

<BURN.>

FWOOSH!

MOVE, YOU IDIOT!

AAAH AAAHH!

BLAM!

BLAM! BLAM!

NO.

HSS

NNNN--

HT!

EL HOMBRE ARAÑA.

SANGRE ARAÑA. ESCARLATA ARAÑA.

I HAVE HAD *ENOUGH* OF YOU.

OH, @#$%.

HEH.

AMERICANS AND THEIR SUPER HEROES.

KILLING SPIDER-MAN WAS EASY, I--

EH?

<WHAT IS-->

--URK!

SHRPP!

NYAAA!!

I--

WHAM!

AM--

AAH!

NOT--

SPIDER-MAN!

THAT CLEAR ENOUGH FOR YOU?

HNN--!!-

KRAK!

END IT. KILL HIM. IT'S A MERCY.

BUT THEN I FEEL IT

THAT LITTLE WHISPER, SCRATCHING IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD. EVER SINCE NEW YORK.

EVER SINCE MY MIND BECAME CLEAR.

LETTING HIM LIVE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE ON ANY LEVEL

BUT THERE'S THAT WHISPER

WHEN THE WHISPER TURNS TO APPLAUSE, I START TO QUESTION MY SANITY.

THEY'RE CHEERING.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND AT FIRST, BUT THEN I REALIZE...

THEY'RE CHEERING FOR ME

HOUSTON GO FIGURE

That Night.

DON'T BE SCARED.

I JUST... I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE...

...THAT YOU WERE OKAY.

USTED ME SALVO

WHAT? I CAN'T--

USTED ME SALVO.

...

WHAT DID SHE SAY?

I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE.

I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE YOU ANY.

EVERYONE IN THE CITY KNOWS WHAT YOU DID TODAY.

...IT'S FINE. I'M LEAVING TOWN.

WHY?

I NEVER MEANT TO--IT'S COMPLICATED.

PLEASE... STAY.

#MRFF#

THIS ISN'T *NEW YORK*. WE DON'T HAVE A SUPER HERO IN HOUSTON. AND WE NEED ONE.

MAYOR PARKER'D PROBABLY GIVE YOU THE DAMN KEY TO THE CITY IF YOU STAYED.

PARKER. HEH.

I'M LEAVING. I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE THE GIRL WAS SAFE.

WELL... SHE'S NOT. SHE'S *ALIVE*, BUT SHE'S AN ILLEGAL. WALLY SAYS SHE'LL BE SENT BACK ACROSS THE BORDER.

WHOEVER SENT *HIM*... THERE'S NO WAY TO PROTECT HER OVER THERE.

I'M AN OFFICER OF THE LAW. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.

NOW A VIGILANTE...

...THAT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.

FORGET IT.

HEY! WHAT'D SHE SAY TO YOU?

NOTHING.

MY NAME IS KAINE

NO TRESPASSING

ALL MY LIFE, I WAS DYING

I DID TERRIBLE THINGS

ARACELY, I NEED TO TALK TO--

BUT NOW

NOW I HAVE A SECOND CHANCE

AGU- ROMIT

AND I'M NOT GOING TO WASTE IT

I'M NOT SPIDER-MAN I'M NOT A HERO

BUT MAYBE I DON'T HAVE TO BE A MONSTER

MAYBE I CAN MAKE UP FOR ALL THE THINGS THAT I'VE DONE

MAYBE I CAN STOP RUNNING AND HAVE A LIFE FOR THE FIRST TIME

AND IF NOT, WELL...

MEXICO'S RIGHT NEXT DOOR

STEGMAN
MIKEY
+MARTEGRACIA+

Park Plaza E.R.

THREE WEEKS AGO

FFFF

Downtown Houston.
NOW.
I SEE IT ALL
THE GIRL LEAVES THE UNDERGROUND TUNNEL. SHE'S ON HER WAY HOME. ON HER WAY TO DINNER. ON HER WAY TO HER LIFE
TALKING ON HER PHONE BECAUSE SHE THINKS THAT'S SAFER SOMEHOW.
IT'S NOT.
MAYBE THE MAN INTENDED JUST TO MUG HER. MAYBE IT'D END UP SOMETHING FAR WORSE.
BUT LIKE I SAID
I SAW IT ALL HAPPENING

SO THIS IS GOING TO END FAR DIFFERENTLY.

NYAAAAAAAHHH!

OHGOD OHGODOH GODPLEASE SAVEME SAVE--

WAAAH!

AAAAH--

THP!

THP!

THP!

THP!

THP!

--HKK!

NO, PLEASE, DON'T--

SHUT UP!

YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE TOWN, DO YOU HEAR ME? FOREVER. AND IF YOU DON'T...GOD HELP YOU.

BECAUSE I WILL HUNT YOU DOWN.

I'LL BREAK YOUR BONES IN WAYS THAT WILL NEVER HEAL.

I'LL TEAR EVERY PIECE OF FLESH OFF YOUR BODY. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?

BY THE END, YOU'LL BEG ME TO KILL YOU...AND THAT'LL ONLY BE THE BEGINNING.

LEAVE. HOUSTON. NOW.

HOLY...

00:05:

MY NAME IS KAINE

REC

...@#$%.

...AND I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S HOW SPIDER-MAN WOULD HAVE HANDLED THINGS.

DAMMMIT! I SHOULD HAVE ASKED HIM IF THERE WAS A DRUG STORE AROUND HERE.

THE ONLY REASON I CAME OUT WAS TO PICK UP SUPPLIES FOR ARACELY AND--

!!!

WHERE THE HELL DID THE *BUILDINGS* GO?!

CRASH

I RAN OUT OF SKYSCRAPERS.

HOUSTON

The Four Seasons Hotel.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

YES.

ARE YOU HITTING ON ME?

NO.

WHY NOT?

WHAT?

ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME YOUR NAME?

KAINE.

IS THAT YOUR FIRST NAME OR LAST NAME?

BOTH.

YOUR NAME IS KAINE KAINE?

I'M AFRAID TO ASK WHAT YOUR MIDDLE NAME IS.

ARE YOU GOING TO HELP ME OR NOT?

YOU CHECK INTO THIS PLACE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, THROWING AROUND A LOT OF CASH, ACTING LIKE A BIT OF AN ASS...

LOOK, I--

AND THEN YOU ASK ME FOR A FAVOR? IS THAT RIGHT?

...YES.

WHAT'S MY NAME?

I...I DON'T KNOW. JUST FORGET IT, I WON'T BOTHER YOU ANY--

MY NAME IS ANNABELLE ADAMS.

HOW CAN I HELP YOU, KAINE?

CORRE... CORRE...

MICTLAN SE ACERCA...

!!!

¿QUÉ

...WOW.

KLK

WILL YOU STOP? YOU'RE ACTUALLY CREEPING ME OUT MORE.

I'M JUST SAYING, THERE'S A PERFECTLY NORMAL EXPLANATION FOR WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE.

I HAVE PEPPER SPRAY.

YOUR SPANISH IS GOOD, YOU SAID?

<BETTER THAN YOURS, I-->

WHA--?

YAAAA!

WHOA!

WANG!

UHN!

NO PERMITO QUE ME MATES!

HEY!

HEY!

<WAIT, MY NAME IS-- OOOF!>

NOK NOK NOK!

HELLO? KAINE? ARE YOU--?

OH. THERE YOU ARE.

EL MEDICO!

GET HER OFF ME!

‹I FEEL HORRIBLE. I THOUGHT THE FIRE MAN HAD COME BACK.›
‹IT'S OKAY. BREATHE IN.›
‹DID I HURT THE PRETTY LADY?›
‹SHE'S FINE, ARACELY. BREATHE.›
NO, I'M *NOT* KEEPING HER PRISONER.
TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

WELL, THEN WHAT THE HELL--
...YOU @#$%*& PERVERT.
SHE'S... SHE'S MY NIECE.
WHAT?! NO, LOOK... SHE'S... SHE'S...
DAMMIT, LOOK, SHE WAS GOING TO BE DEPORTED. I'M KEEPING HER HERE UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH HER, AND I NEED SOMEONE TO WATCH HER.
DO YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE--

IT'S TRUE. KAINE SAVED HER LIFE, AND *MINE* TOO.
HOW EXACTLY DID HE DO THAT? AND *WHO* ARE YOU?
DONALD MELAND. I'M ARACELY'S DOCTOR.
WE NEED TO GET SOME SUPPLIES FROM THE HOSPTIAL.
ANNABELLE--
¡HOLA! ¡LO SIENTO!
FINE. BUT IF SHE *ATTACKS* ME, I'M MACING HER.

Park Plaza Hospital.

POLICE LINE DO

POLIC

THE FIRE MARSHALL SAYS WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO LET ANYBODY IN, DR. MELAND...

TEDDY... IT'S ME. I'M JUST PICKING UP MY COMPUTER. I'LL BE *FIVE* MINUTES.

LINE DO NO

KAINE?

I'M HERE.

YOU KNOW, FOR A SUPER HERO, YOU'RE PRETTY SCARY.

I'M *NOT* A SUPER HERO.

YOU'RE WEARING A SUPER HERO COSTUME.

IT'S NOT *MINE.*

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS THEN?

WHY ARE *YOU?* THIS GIRL IS NOTHING TO YOU.

I'VE HAD A LOT OF LOSSES LATELY.

IT'D BE NICE TO HAVE A WIN.

YOU AND OFFICER LAYTON.

...ARE YOU FRIENDS?

MOST DAYS. HE'S MY *HUSBAND.*

WAIT, WHAT?

IS THAT A *PROBLEM?*

NO, I JUST--

TIME TO GO.

HEY. WHAT'S--

MOVE!

KRACK!

BLAM BLAM

AAAAAH!

LISTEN TO ME!

WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE, WE HAVE TO--

LISTEN!

STAY HERE, AWAY FROM THE WINDOWS. DON'T MOVE!

I'LL BE BACK.

...WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?

COME ON, COME ON... WHERE ARE YOU...

WHERE THE HELL DID YOU GO?!

HOW COULD YOU HAVE MOVED THAT FAST, YOU FAT SON OF A--

WHAT THE--

YOU'RE ABOUT TO HAVE A *VERY* BAD DAY.

ZZZZZZZZZZ

KRAK

RRAA!

HUP!

UHN!

WHAT THE @#$% ARE *YOU* SUPPOSED TO BE?

HOUSTON'S NOT SUPPOSED TO HAVE ANY *SUPERHUMANS.*

WHAM!

HSSS...

KRRAAA!

THWIP

@#$%!

HNN!

WHAM!

GET UP!

DO YOU HEAR ME? GET--

OH, I HEAR YOU.

FSSSSSS...

AAH!

FWASH

BLAM BLAM BLAM

THAP!

OH--

--IIIEEE!

KRUNK

HK!

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL THE DOCTOR? WHO HIRED YOU?

TELL ME!

GUILD... RULES...

CLIENTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL.

KLANG

NYEARGH!

GUILD

OH, NO

HR... HURR...
CAN'T BREATHE... CAN'T...
YEAH, THAT'S HARD WITH YOUR LUNGS FULL OF GAS.
LUCKILY, YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET PUT OUT OF YOUR MISERY.
HUAHH!
NO... THAT'S NOT...
KAINE...
VISION'S CLEARING
HAVE TO FIND HIM. HAVE TO *KILL* HIM BEFORE...
BUT JUST LIKE THAT, HE'S *GONE*

Park Plaza Hospital.
LATER.
DONALD!
I'M OKAY, WALLY.
KRNNK
New Orleans.
LATER.
THE SHOOTER'S GONE.
AAAH!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "THE SHOOTER'S GONE"?
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!
SOMEONE PUT OUT A CONTRACT ON MELAND.
SOMEONE... SOMEONE WANTS TO KILL ME?
THEY'LL BE COMING IN FORCE NOW.
THEY? THEY *WHO?*
MISTRESS...
THE MARK IS DEAD?
NO.
THEN YOU ARE VERY BRAVE, OR VERY STUPID. THE PRICE OF FAILURE IS DEATH.
I KNOW. BUT I HAVE *SOMETHING* TO TRADE FOR MY LIFE.
I'VE FOUND *KAINE*. HE'S ALIVE.

WELL, THEN.

THAT CHANGES THINGS.

THE *ASSASSINS GUILD*.

BUT THEY'RE NOT COMING JUST FOR MELAND ANYMORE...

...THEY'LL BE COMING FOR *ME*.

STEGMAN-
MIKEY

The Atheneum Hotel, Detroit.

THE PAST

CH-CLACK!

CLACKCHKCLACKCHKCLACK

IS THERE A PROBLEM HERE?

HELLO, KAINE...MAY I CALL YOU KAINE?

MY NAME IS BELLADONNA, AND I AM THE HEAD OF THE ASSASSINS GUILD.

YOU'RE A VERY INTRIGUING INDIVIDUAL. WE'VE BEEN AWARE OF YOUR INTRIGUING ACTIVITIES FOR SOME TIME NOW, BUT DESPITE ALL OF OUR CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS, WE KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT YOU.

WHAT WE DO KNOW, HOWEVER, IS THAT YOU ARE A KILLER FOR HIRE AND THIS IS THE SECOND CONTRACT YOU'VE TAKEN IN JURISDICTION OF THE ASSASSINS GUILD.

ALL KILLERS PAY TITHE TO THE GUILD.

I WANT MY TITHE, KAINE.

HERE IS THE WAY THIS WORKS. YOU EITHER JOIN THE GUILD AND MAKE RESTITUTION FOR THE KILLS YOU'VE MADE...OR THINGS WILL BECOME UNPLEASANT.

YOUR CHOICE.

WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE, KAINE?

TELL BELLADONNA...

...SHE CAN GO @#$% HERSELF.

The Chase Building,
Downtown Houston.
NOW.

BANG

THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG.

WHEN THE ASSASSINS GUILD WANTS SOMEONE DEAD, THEY DON'T SCREW AROUND.

FROM THE TIME A GUILD SNIPER I.D.'D ME UNTIL THE MOMENT WHEN TWO OF BELLADONNA'S SUPER-POWERED ELITE ASSASSINS JUMPED ME?

TWANG

LESS THAN 24 HOURS

HT!

CLAP

I'D ONLY EVER STAYED AHEAD OF THEM BY NEVER STOPPING

THWIP

VMM

ALL I HAD TO DO WHEN THAT SNIPER SAW MY FACE WAS PICK UP AND LEAVE

BLAM BLAM BLAM

I DIDN'T DO THAT

AND NOW I'M PAYING THE PRICE

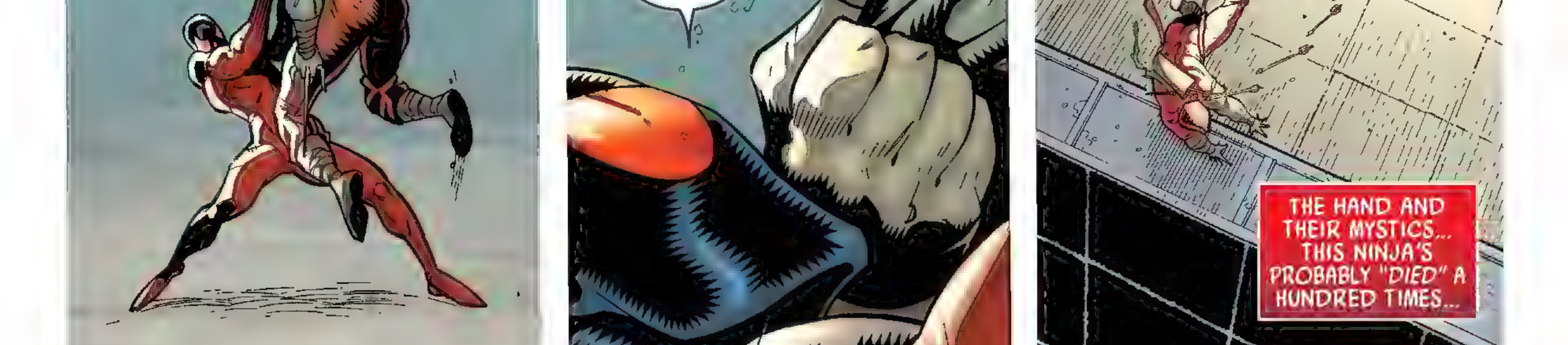
‹DO YOU BELIEVE BULLETS CAN KILL A NINJA OF THE HAND?›
SPAK
SPAK
SPAK
SPAK
TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE

‹DO YOU BELIEVE THAT WAS HOW I INTENDED TO KILL YOU, NINJA?›

‹NOPE.›
SHUNK!

HURK!

@#$% HE'S NOT DYING
THE HAND AND THEIR MYSTICS... THIS NINJA'S PROBABLY "DIED" A HUNDRED TIMES...


BUT I'M NOT ONE TO GIVE UP

River Oaks.
ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST COMMUNITIES IN TEXAS.
TELL ME AGAIN WHY WE CAN'T GO TO THE POLICE?
I AM THE POLICE!
HE TRIED TO KILL ME, WALLY!
YOU CAN'T ACCUSE SOMEONE LIKE *TERRENCE MITCHELL* OF PUTTING A HIT OUT ON YOU WITH NO PROOF. HE OWNS HALF THE REAL ESTATE IN HOUSTON.
LOOK AT THIS PLACE!
SO WHAT? WE'RE BREAKING INTO HIS MANSION TO CONVINCE HIM TO *NOT* KILL ME?
KAINE SAID HE'D HANDLE IT...
DONALD...
MISTER MITCHELL?
MISTER MITCHELL? ARE YOU OKAY?
I...I CAME TO TALK TO YOU.
KILL HIM.
DOCTOR MELAND. THE MAN WHO KILLED MY FAMILY.
YOU CAME TO TALK TO ME?

The Galleria.
IN THE UPTOWN DISTRICT OF HOUSTON.
WOW.
theGalleria
‹BIG.›
‹WE'LL GET YOU CLOTHES, SHOES... KAINE GAVE ME ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY YOU ANYTHING YOU NEED, ARACELY.›
‹ANNABELLE! WHAT'S THAT?!›
‹IT'S THE FOOD COURT. YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?›
‹WAIT, WHAT'S THAT?!›
‹MACY'S.›
‹YOUR NAME, PARENTS, WHERE YOU LIVE... NOTHING?›
TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH
‹CLOTHES!›
I GUESS YOU REMEMBER WHAT SHOPPING IS.
‹HOW DO YOU EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME IS ARACELY?›
‹THE MAN WHO TRIED TO KILL ME TOLD ME IT WAS.›
‹WHAT?›
‹CAN I HAVE THIS?›
UGH. WHY AM I DOING THIS? AND WHY ISN'T KAINE HERE?
30
HE IS ON TOP OF A BUILDING, FIGHTING.
I CAN FEEL HIM.
NOW HOW DO YOU KNOW--
WAIT. DID YOU JUST SPEAK ENGLISH?

THIS JUST WENT PUBLIC.

NOW I HAVE TO DEAL WITH SCREAMING PEOPLE

EEEEEEEE!

VZLZZ

GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE KICKED HIM OFF THE--

GOTCHA.

BLAM

116

UHN!

BANG

SPLICH

YOU'RE A DEAD MAN.

I'M THE SMITHY. I'VE GOT A THOUSAND GUNS WAITING FOR ME TO CALL THEM.

SO IF ANYONE HERE IS A DEAD MAN, KAINE... IT'S--

!

WHAT ARE YOU--

NYEARRRRGHH!

CRUNK

CRUNK

USE YOUR GUNS NOW.

AAHH!

WOOSH

SPLASH

HH... WHAT--

ARE YOU STUPID, GIRL? RUN! GET OUT OF HERE!

RUN. GET OUT OF HERE.

WHAM!

THAT WASN'T WIND SOMETHING CUT ME

NO. NOT SOMETHING

SOMEONE

PUT IT DOWN! PUT IT DOWN NOW!

ohgod ohgodoh god...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DIE. THE *DOCTOR* DOES.

YOU CAN STILL WALK AWAY. BUT IF YOU SHOOT THAT *GUN*... WELL, THEN YOU'VE JUST MADE IT PERSONAL.

CALL HIM OFF!

WHY?

IT WASN'T MY FAULT!

YOU SHOULD HAVE SAVED THEM. MY BABY GIRL HAD HER WHOLE LIFE IN FRONT OF HER, AND YOU LET HER *DIE*.

END THIS RIGHT NOW, MITCHELL, OR I SWEAR TO GOD I'LL KILL YOU.

GO AHEAD.

MISTER MITCHELL...

TERRENCE...

THERE WAS *NOTHING* I COULD DO. THEY WERE DEAD BEFORE I EVEN GOT THERE. AND IT WEIGHS ON ME. EVERY TIME I LOSE A PATIENT, PART OF ME DIES WITH THEM.

I'D DO ANYTHING TO GO BACK AND SAVE ALL THE PEOPLE THAT HAVE DIED ON MY TABLE, BUT I CAN'T. THEY'LL HAUNT ME FOREVER.

KILLING ME WON'T BRING THEM BACK.

WE JUST HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO GO ON.

SLASH!

HA HA HA HA HA!

LOOK AT YOU. BIG TOUGH KILLER, THINKS HE CAN GET OUT OF PAYING HIS DUES.

ANY PARTICULAR REASON YOU'RE DRESSED UP LIKE SPIDER-MAN?

I WAS WORRIED THAT IF I DRESSED LIKE A SKELETON, PEOPLE WOULD THINK I WAS SOME ASSASSINS GUILD REJECT.

FUNNY. BUT YOU'RE IN REAL TROUBLE NOW.

YOU'VE MET *FLOWER*, RIGHT?

?

RUN.

THE HELL IS SHE--

I TOLD YOU TO RUN! I TOLD YOU TO RUN!

OH, DAMMIT

WHY DIDN'T YOU LISTEN TO ME?! NOW IT'S GOING TO BE OVER TOO FAST!

KK--!

CRUNCH

YOU'RE RUINING IT!

THE GIRL WEIGHS 90 POUNDS SOAKING WET, AND SHE THROWS ME LIKE I'M NOTHING

NOT TO MENTION THE SPEEDSTER, THE TELEPORTER, AND THE @#$%ING ZOMBIE NINJA

BELLADONNA PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS

I'M FLATTERED

CHOOM

A NEW LIFE. A SECOND CHANCE. DID I REALLY THINK IT'D BE THAT EASY?

AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE DONE, I HAD IT COMING

VZZZ

THERE'S NO ESCAPE.

ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS GIVE THE GUILD ITS *MONEY*. ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS *KILL* FOR BELLADONNA, LIKE THE REST OF US.

LOOK AT WHAT YOU *DID* TO ME!

HARVESTER... CUT OFF THIS SUCKER'S HEAD!

I DESERVE THIS.

BUT NOT FROM THESE BASTARDS

ZZZZ!

WHAT THE HELL--?

WHERE'D HE GO?!

HE'S CLOAKED! EVERYONE--

SPLORCH

HKK--!

I'VE GOT THIS.

THUNK

SLICE

WOOOOOSH

AHAAA!!!!EEEE!

AHAAAAHHH!

LAST CHANCE. STOP THIS NOW.

DON'T MAKE ME KILL YOU.

KILL YOU!

YAAAAA!

YAAAAA!

YAAA!

URK!

THWIP

THWIP

THOK

GONNA PUT A BULLET IN YOUR BRAIN.

GONNA... *HNN*... GONNA...

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING, SMITHY.

NOT WITH THOSE FINGERS.

SHE'LL NEVER STOP. EVEN IF YOU KILL ALL OF US, SHE'LL NEVER STOP COMING AFTER YOU.

HNN! THE ASSASSINS GUILD IS HUNDREDS STRONG, AND THEY'LL NEVER STOP.

AND ONE OF THEM WILL END YOU.

...I KNOW.

NOW GIVE ME YOUR PHONE.

New Orleans.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ASSASSINS GUILD.

MISTRESS?

IT'S...IT'S *KAINE*. AND HE'S ASKING FOR YOU.

YOU'RE STILL ALIVE. I'M QUITE IMPRESSED.

NOW WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

CALL OFF YOUR DOGS. OFF ME AND OFF THE DOCTOR.

BECAUSE THEN I'LL DO ONE JOB FOR YOU.

A TIME, PLACE AND TARGET OF YOUR CHOOSING. AND AFTER THAT IT'S OVER. YOU FORGET WHO I AM.

THAT, OR I KILL EVERY SINGLE MEMBER OF THE ASSASSINS GUILD STARTING WITH YOU.

YOUR CHOICE.

I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU, KAINE.

WHAT? WHERE DID HE GO--

OH, GOD...OH, GOD...

I'M SORRY. I'M SO SORRY. I LOST THEM. I LOST THEM.

I'M SORRY.

I KNOW.

I KNOW...

KAINE.

The Four Seasons.

"ESTO ES BUENO."

"I KNOW, RIGHT? NOW SAY IT IN ENGLISH."

THIS IS GOOD.

FRENCH.

C'EST UNE BONNE CHOSE.

JAPANESE.

KORE WA YOIDESU.

YOU ARE ONE INTERESTING KID, ARACLEY.

KAINE IS BACK. HE IS VERY UPSET.

WHAT? KAINE?

I NEED TO USE THE BATHROOM.

TV IS GOOD.

THIS

...THIS IS WHO I AM.

A KILLER

A MURDERER

LOUISE...

HUUUAGH!

MY BODY MAY BE HEALED, MY MIND MAY BE CLEAR...

...BUT THE BLOOD ON MY HANDS WILL NEVER COME OFF, NO MATTER WHAT I DO.

KAINE? YOU OKAY IN THERE?

KNOK

KNOK

--TONIGHT, ON EYEWITNESS NEWS AT ELEVEN... HOUSTON'S FIRST SUPER HERO, CAUGHT ON TAPE!

REPORTS ARE COMING IN OF A FIGHT BETWEEN FOUR UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS AND WHAT SOME HOUSTONIANS ARE CALLING OUR CITY'S OWN "SPIDER-MAN."

AFTER THE MYSTERIOUS FIRE AT THE MEDICAL CENTER, EYEWITNESSES CLAIMED THAT A COSTUME-CLAD HERO SAVED SEVERAL LIVES.

AND NOW A NEW VIDEO HAS EMERGED OF THIS MASKED MAN, SAVING A WOMAN'S LIFE FROM AN ATTACKER.

REC

WHAT IS THIS?

AND THE QUESTION ON EVERYBODY'S MIND...WHO IS THIS SCARLET SPIDER-MAN?

KAINE!

WAIT... WHAT?

00:00:00
STEGMAN — MARTEGRACIA

Downtown Houston.
THE SKYLINE DISTRICT.

CYAAAHH!

AAHHH!

GET OFF ME! GET OFF!

NO.

CRASH

NN...NO... PLEASE...

NEED... NEED A DOCT--

AAAHHH!

TELL ME WHERE IT IS!

I...I DON'T--

WHERE'S THE BOMB?!

The University of Houston.
THE TEXAS CENTER FOR SUPERCONDUCTIVITY

HI, CAN I HELP YOU?

I HAVE NEED OF YOUR FACILITIES.

I'M SORRY, THIS ISN'T A PUBLIC--

I WAS NOT ASKING.

BLAM!

CUT THE ALARMS. THIS IS GOING TO BE MESSY.

TELL ME!
HKK... HKK...
TELL ME, OR YOU'LL WISH YOU WERE DEAD!
THE FIRST THING I'LL TEAR OUT OF YOU IS YOUR EYES, YOU'LL STILL BE ABLE TO TALK...
HEY... HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
TELL ME WHERE IT IS!
LET HIM GO!
I TOLD YOU NEVER TO THREATEN ME, LAYTON!
NOW!
HE CAN'T BREATHE!
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE BACK THERE. IF THIS ONE WON'T TALK, HE WILL.
...FINE.
I...I KNOW THIS GUY...
MENKIN... HE'S BEEN ARRESTED A FEW TIMES, ALL HATE CRIMES AGAINST ILLEGALS...
AUGHH... AHH...
GET AN ADDRESS ON HIS FAMILY.
BECAUSE I'M GOING TO GO KILL THEM.
WHAT? NO!
MENKIN, YOU HAVE TO TELL US--
YEARGH!!!
WHERE IS IT?
SHUNK!

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT BACK THERE?

WHEEEOOOWHEEEEOOO

WHAT?

YOU CAN'T TORTURE PEOPLE! YOU CAN'T THREATEN PEOPLE'S FAMILIES!

PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE NOT THIS NAIVE.

A NUCLEAR BOMB COULD GO OFF IN THIS CITY AT ANY SECOND, DO YOU ***REALLY*** GIVE A @#$% ABOUT ME THREATENING PEOPLE?

I...I HAVE TO CALL DONALD.

YEAH. CALL HIM, TELL HIM TO GET ARACELY AND ANNABELLE, AND WE'LL ALL GET THE @#$% OUT OF HOUSTON.

I CAME TO YOU FOR HELP! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A SUPER HERO, FOR PETE'S SAKE!

DON'T SAY THAT NAME.

...

GO OVER IT AGAIN. FROM THE START.

"HOUSTON P.D. GOT THE CALL...A TIP FROM A MEMBER OF THE *WATCHDOGS*."

"WHAT THE HELL IS A WATCHDOG?"

"THEY'RE AN EXTREMIST RIGHT-WING GROUP, THEY HADN'T BEEN SEEN FOR A WHILE. ORGANIZED, WELL FUNDED, VIOLENT...

"THEY WERE KNOWN FOR ATTACKING ABORTION CLINICS, PORNOGRAPHERS, HOMOSEXUALS...MOSTLY MORAL ISSUES.

"THEY GOT A LOT OF SUPPORT, PLAYING ON PEOPLE'S FEAR.

"BUT WHEN THEY EXPANDED INTO THE SOUTHWEST, INCLUDING TEXAS, THEY STARTED ATTACKING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"THE WATCHDOG THAT CALLED THE H.P.D., SOMETHING SCARED HIM.

"THE GROUP WAS PLANNING ON SMUGGLING SOME KIND OF BOMB INTO HOUSTON, TO MAKE A POINT OF HOW WEAK THE BORDER WAS. MAYBE EVEN BLAME IT ON ILLEGALS...

"...BUT THEY FIGURED OUT THAT THE GUY IN CHARGE WASN'T GOING TO STOP AT A SCARE TACTIC, A GUY NAMED *RANIER*.

"HE WAS GOING TO DETONATE A BOMB FOR REAL.

"AND IT'S HERE.

"IT'S ALREADY IN HOUSTON.

EXIT

59 HOUSTON

"*H.P.D.*, THE *F.B.I*... EVERYONE'S SCOURING THE CITY FOR IT RIGHT NOW, BUT I THOUGHT...WITH YOU BEING THE *SCARLET SPIDER* AND ALL...

"...THAT YOU COULD HELP."

WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?

THE SCARLET SPIDER. THAT'S YOUR SUPER HERO NAME, RIGHT? I HEARD IT ON THE NEWS.

...

I SWEAR TO GOD, I'M BEING PUNISHED.

University of Houston.

SEE? THE GUY YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO TORTURE WAS RIGHT.

THIS ONE'S STILL WARM, PROBABLY AN HOUR AGO.

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SOUND?

WHY WOULD THEY COME HERE?

MUST HAVE NEEDED SOMETHING.

LIKE WHAT?

DO I LOOK LIKE A SCIENTIST? I DON'T KNOW--

OH, @#$%.

REE! REE! REE!

RADIATION LEAK

REE!

REE!

THIS...THIS IS A NUCLEAR RADIATION LAB.

THEY...THEY MUST HAVE JUST HAD THE MATERIALS. THEY PUT THE BOMB TOGETHER HERE.

THAT'S JUST *PERFECT*. SO BEFORE WE DIE, WE'RE GOING TO GET CANCER.

YEAH, IT'S LAYTON. I NEED TO TALK TO CHIEF MCCLELLAND, OR WHOEVER'S THERE FROM THE F.B.I. TASK FORCE...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M CALLING IT IN.

WHAT FOR? IT'S POINTLESS.

QUIET!

NO, NOT YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO CALL IN, THAT THEY'RE GONE? THAT WE MISSED THEM?

THEY COULD BE ANYWHERE, DON'T YOU GET IT? ANY--

CHK-CHAK!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

AAAHHHH!

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT GUY WEARING?!

JUST KILL HIM!

CAREFUL... YOU COULD HURT THEM.

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

OKAY, ALREADY!

UHN!

AAAH!

OHCRAP OHCRAPOH CRAP...

UHN!

WHERE'S THE BOMB?!

I...I DIDN'T KNOW. I SWEAR! I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS REAL!

HE...HE STARTED THE TIMER...IT'S GOING TO GO OFF.

WHERE?

PLEASE... PLEASE GOD, FORGIVE ME...

WHERE DID RANIER TAKE IT?

ANSWER HIM.

OR GOD WILL BE THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES.

The FBI Field Office, Houston.

THIS IS BULLOCH IN THE HOUSTON OFFICE.

I...OH, GOD. I NEED TO SPEAK TO DIRECTOR MUELLER RIGHT NOW.

FBI Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

MAKE THE CALL.

THE PRESIDENT?

NO...GET ME DAISY JOHNSON.

Headquarters of the Strategic Homeland Intervention Enforcement Logistics Division.

A.K.A. S.H.I.E.L.D.

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT...

Daisy Johnson.

DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

YOU'VE GOT A DIRTY NUKE LOOSE IN HOUSTON, BASED OFF A TIP YOUR AGENTS RECEIVED FOUR @#$% HOURS AGO?! AND ONLY NOW YOU'RE CALLING ME?!

SHUT IT, FURY.

YOU NEED TO WORK ON YOUR PEOPLE SKILLS, DIRECTOR.

COULSON...

YES, MA'AM?

Avengers Mansion.

NEW YORK CITY.

"...GET ME TONY STARK."

Tony Stark.

A.K.A. IRON MAN.

I'M ON MY WAY.

CRASH!

William P. Hobby Airport.

OPEN FIRE!

BLAM!

BLAM! BLAM!

SKREEEEE!

GO!

BLAM! BLAM!

UNGH!

AAAHHH!

CHUNK!

WHERE ARE YOU, YOU SON OF A--

RANIER.

HELLO.

I MUST SAY...I WAS NOT EXPECTING TO ENCOUNTER SOMEONE LIKE YOU. NOT HERE.

WHERE IS IT?

YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND... THIS ISN'T FOR ME. I AM ONLY DOING MY MASTER'S WORK. WHEN I FOUND THE RED SKULL'S OLD BUNKER, AND THE WEAPONS INSIDE IT...

...I KNEW WHAT HE WOULD WANT ME TO DO.

WHERE IS THE BOMB?!

YOU WILL FIND OUT IN 20 MINUTES.

NO!

BLAM!

SCARLET... WHAT ARE--

WHAT HAPPENED?! WHAT DID YOU DO?!

I DIDN'T *DO* ANY-THING.

DID...DID HE SAY WHERE THE BOMB WAS?

NO. JUST THAT IT'S GOING TO GO OFF IN TWENTY MINUTES.

WHAT DO WE DO?

WHAT DO WE DO? IT'S *OVER*. WE CALL THE OTHERS AND GET AS FAR AWAY AS WE CAN IN TWENTY MINUTES.

YOU'RE JUST *GIVING UP?!* YOU'RE GOING TO JUST LET THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE *DIE?!*

SCREW "WHAT KIND OF *SUPER HERO*" YOU ARE...

...WHAT KIND OF *MAN* ARE YOU?!

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?!

I WANT YOU TO NOT *GIVE UP!* THIS IS *MY* CITY, THESE ARE *MY* PEOPLE... I WANT YOU TO *SAVE* THEM!

HOW?! I DON'T HAVE SPECIAL NUCLEAR BOMB DETECTING POWERS!

I'M STRONG, I'M FAST, I CAN SHOOT WEBS...*NONE* OF WHICH IS GOING TO FIND THIS *BOMB!* YOU WANT ME TO STICK TO THE WALL A BIT? MAYBE *THAT'LL* HELP! YOU WANT ME TO TALK TO--

I CAN TALK TO SPIDERS.

WHAT ARE YOU--

SHUT UP!

I'M LISTENING.

I'VE GOT IT.

BAYOU

BUFFALO

The Skies Over West Virginia.

AGENT COULSON, THIS IS IRON MAN. HOUSTON P.D. GOT WORD FROM ONE OF THEIR OFFICERS.

UNDERSTOOD, IRON MAN. WHAT'S YOUR E.T.A.?

THE BOMB IS ACTIVE, AND SET TO DETONATE IN FIFTEEN MINUTES.

27 Minutes From Houston At Top Speed.

The White House.

DO YOU HAVE AN UPDATE?

SIR...MISTER PRESIDENT...

SIR...

...WE'RE GOING TO LOSE HOUSTON.

Downtown Houston.

Seven Minutes Until Detonation.

The Houston Underground.

A SYSTEM OF PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS AND SHOPPING TUNNELS 20 FEET BELOW DOWNTOWN HOUSTON.

MOVE.

MOVE!

MOVE!

AAAHHH!

AIIEE!!

COME ON...COME ON...

THERE.

CRASH!

FOUND YOU.

I FOUND...

OH, @#$%.

SCARLET, DID YOU--

OH, @#$%.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DISARM A NUCLEAR BOMB.

DO YOU?

THE BOMB SQUAD IS ON THE WAY.

THERE'S TWO MINUTES LEFT. NO ONE'S GOING TO MAKE IT.

THIS IS IT.

0:02:21

I...I...

OH, GOD.

GET OUT OF HERE. RUN. MAYBE YOU CAN GET CLEAR.

...

NO. I THINK I'LL STAY.

THIS IS MY CITY NOW, TOO, RIGHT?

HEH. WELCOME TO HOUSTON.

0:01:05

I'M... I'M GOING TO CALL DONALD.

HE'D WANT ME TO CALL HIM.

0:00:27

DONALD? IT'S ME, WALLY... I--

I KNOW YOU'RE WORKING, I'M SORRY--

0:00:05

SKRRB!

IT... IT DIDN'T GO OFF.

WHAT... WHAT DID YOU DO?!

WAAAAAHHH!

WE WERE GOING TO DIE ANYWAY.

HA... HAHAHA...

HA HA HA HA...

HA HA HA HA HA HA!

CLEAR!

LAYTON... WHAT THE HELL--?!

IT'S, UH...IT'S OKAY.

IT'S BEEN DISARMED.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

YOU'D BETTER GET A RAISE OR A PROMOTION OR SOMETHING OUT OF THIS.

THANKS.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, SCARLET SP--

DON'T.

Detonation Plus 00:01:00.

IRON MAN, THIS IS AGENT COULSON.

Detonation Plus 00:01:37.

ABOUT THAT SITUATION IN HOUSTON...

MMM...

Detonation Plus 00:02:12.

IT...UMM... IT LOOKS IT HAS BEEN RESOLVED.

KAINE
PARKER
STEGMAN

BREAKING NEWS TONIGHT...ANOTHER SIGHTING OF THE "SCARLET SPIDER," CAUGHT THIS TIME BY A SECURITY CAMERA...

BETTY CARRIER
NewsNetwork9

...STOPPED AN ATTEMPTED ROBBERY AT...

...FOILED A MUGGING OUTSIDE THE...

...HOUSTON'S VERY OWN SUPER HERO...

...SEVERAL WITNESSES CLAIM THAT HE YELLED AT THEM, TELLING THEM HE WAS NOT SPIDER-MAN...

...ALLEGED THIEVES NOW IN THE HOSPITAL...

...AS ONLOOKERS CHEERED...

...WEBBED UPSIDE DOWN ON THE SIDE OF THE...

...POSTED TO YOUTUBE...

0:17 EST -0500

Sergeant Wally Layton.
HOUSTON POLICE

WSLS

--AND WHILE THE H.P.D. DOES NOT CONDONE VIGILANTISM, WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE SCARLET SPIDER IS A FRIEND TO ALL OF US.

IT WAS INSANE, RIGHT? THE DUDE WAS ATTACKING THIS GUY WITH A BAT, AND THE SCARLET SPIDER SWUNG IN AND FREAKING TORE THAT GUY UP.

I'VE GOT IT ON MY PHONE! HE TOOK THE BAT AND *BEEP* THE *BEEP* IN THE *BEEEEEEEEEEP*! WITH THE BAT!

HE SAVED MY LIFE FROM THAT HORRIBLE CAR.

BUT HE CURSED A LOT, WHICH I DO NOT APPROVE OF.

I LIKE HIM.

THREE MEN CAME IN, JUST AS WE WERE CLOSING. THEY ALL HAD GUNS. MY WIFE WAS HERE, WITH OUR BABY.

THEY WERE GOING TO KILL US.

THE SCARLET SPIDER SAVED OUR LIVES.

Jessica Michan.
PRESS SECRETARY FOR MAYOR PARKER

--OR'S OFFICE HAS NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THE PRESENCE OF A COSTUMED SUPER-HUMAN OPERATING OUT OF HOUSTON, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT IT'S ABOUT TIME.

--CONTINUES TO BE THE TALK OF HOUSTON.

WHEREVER THE SCARLET SPIDER IS, AND WHOEVER HE IS, HE SEEMS DEDICATED TO MAKING HOUSTON A SAFER PLACE.

HE'S PROBABLY OUT THERE RIGHT NOW, SAVING LIVES.

Downtown Houston.

FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS, ALL I'VE BEEN DOING ARE SPIDER TATS.

WHAT?

YOU KNOW...THAT SCARLET SPIDER GUY.

INK OF HIM, HIS LITTLE SPIDER-SYMBOL, WEBS...ALL OVER PEOPLE'S BODIES. THEY'RE GOING NUTS ABOUT HIM.

...AND?

I SAW HIM, YOU KNOW.

ZZZ...

AND NOTHING. HE WENT PAST ME, OVERHEAD. IT WAS *SURREAL*.

BUT HE'S GOING TO BE HOT AS *HELL* IN THAT OUTFIT OF HIS THIS SUMMER.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I THINK IT'S PERFECT.

MY NAME IS KAINE AND THIS

THIS IS A GOOD START

SHE SAID *SCARLET SPIDER* THE WHOLE DAMN TOWN LATCHED ONTO THAT SOMEHOW

I'M GOING TO KILL JULIA CARPENTER. WHATEVER SHE DID TO THAT COSTUME I TOOK FROM PARKER, IT'S STUCK IN RED

I STOLE IT BECAUSE IT WAS BLACK. I LIKE BLACK. IF IT WAS BLACK, PEOPLE COULD CALL ME, I DON'T KNOW, *DARK SPIDER* OR SOMETHING

THAT'S A GOOD CODE NAME. NOT FREAKING--

SCARLET SPIDER!

ARACELY?! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?

BEING WITH YOU. YOUR ARM HURTS, BUT YOU'RE IGNORING IT.

WHAT?

NOW YOU'RE CONFUSED. AND ANNOYED.

YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT ALONE AT NIGHT, AND--HOW DID YOU EVEN FIND ME?!

I LISTENED FOR YOU.

YOU FEEL VERY LOUD.

OKAY, LOOK...YOU'RE GOING BACK TO THE HOTEL.

I SAW A COMMERCIAL ON THE *TEEVEE* FOR *BAR-B-QUE*.

I WANT TO EAT *BAR-B-QUE* WITH YOU.

YOU ARE SO WEIRD.

BAR-B-QUE!

NAME, PARENTS... YOU'RE SURE YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?

NO.

WAIT. *NO*, YOU'RE NOT SURE...OR *NO*, YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?

I THINK YOU NEED A MILKSHAKE.

I THINK YOU NEED TO WEAR SOMETHING ELSE. WHY DO YOU EVEN HAVE THAT THING?

I LIKE IT. IT REMINDS ME OF YOU.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO I AM. YOU JUST MET ME.

YOU GET MAD WHEN YOU SEE THE BLUE HOODIE. BUT IT REMINDS YOU TO BE A BETTER PERSON, AND THAT REMINDS ME OF *YOU*.

WHAT THE HELL ARE--

YOU THINK YOU AREN'T A GOOD PERSON. WHAT FLAVOR MILKSHAKE ARE YOU GOING TO GET? I THINK YOU SHOULD GET BANANA.

OH! YOU FEEL MADDER NOW. MAYBE YOU WANT VANILLA.

OKAY, *ONE*, WHO THE @#$% ARE YOU? HOW DO YOU KNOW WHERE I AM ALL THE TIME, OR WHAT I'M FEELING?

AND *TWO*--

THAT'S THREE. YOU'RE ON FOUR.

HOW DO YOU SPEAK ENGLISH NOW?

BECAUSE YOU SPEAK ENGLISH, I THINK.

I REALLY AM TRYING TO REMEMBER, BUT I CAN'T. I JUST...WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES, I CAN FEEL WHAT YOU'RE FEELING. SOMETIMES I KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW.

I WISH I HAD MORE OF THIS SAUCE.

OTHER TIMES, WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES, I SEE THE DARKNESS. DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD GO TO A CONCERT?

WHEN YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES, YOU SEE DARKNESS. AWESOME.

NO! I SEE *THE* DARKNESS. IT IS COMING FOR US ALL. DO YOU WANT APPLE PIE? BECAUSE I DO.

THIS CANNOT BE HAPPENING TO ME.

WHERE IS ANNABELLE?

SHLURP

CHURCH.

I KNEW RIGHT THEN THAT I'D BEEN ABDUCTED...

I KNEW RIGHT THEN THAT HE WOULD BE TAKING MY HEART...

I KNEW RIGHT THEN NO ONE WAS ABOVE HIM...

I KNEW RIGHT THEN THAT HE WOULD BE BREAKING MY HEART...

LOOK AT THEM. IS THIS WHAT PEOPLE DO?

IS THIS WHAT HAVING A LIFE LOOKS LIKE?

ANNABELLE SHE'S BEAUTIFUL KIND

SHE SHOULD RUN AWAY FROM ME. SHE WILL, IF SHE FINDS OUT WHO I REALLY AM.

WHAT I AM. I--

I HAVE TO GET OUT OF--

--HERE

YOU!

AAAH!

ANA KRAVINOFF

HISSSSSSSS...

THIS WAY DOWN

SHE AND HER TWISTED FAMILY HUNTED ME DOWN, TRYING TO RESURRECT KRAVEN THE HUNTER.

SHE HELPED KILL ME.

BEER VORT

=NGH= SON OF A--

NOW I'M GOING TO RETURN THE FAVOR

I KNEW RIGHT THEN THAT HE WOULD BE BREAKING MY HEART...

DID YOU THINK I'D FORGET WHAT YOUR FAMILY DID TO ME? TO ALL OF US?

YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE COME LOOKING FOR ME, LITTLE GIRL.

NOT LOOKING.

FRAGILE

HUNTING.

I'M GOING TO TAKE THAT KNIFE FROM YOU AND PUT IT INTO YOUR HEART.

EVERY WOUND YOU GAVE ME, I'M GOING TO--

WAIT. SOMETHING'S WRONG

KAINE...

CHK!

...I NEED FOR YOU TO DIE AGAIN.

KSH!

OH, GOD. OH, GOD NO.

ANNABELLE

WOOSH

AAAIIIEEEEE!

NO!

WAIT, I CAN'T--

--CAN'T MOVE

CRASH

THE KNIFE. ANA'S KNIFE

THE LITTLE @#$% DRUGGED ME

NERVES ARE ON FIRE. MOVE. MOVE.

SMOKE EVERYWHERE, CAN BARELY BREATHE. CROWD'S CLEARING OUT. DEAD BODIES...TWO, NO THREE.

KNIFE

KNIFE

ANA

ANA!

HNN!

HUP!

HAI!

GRAB

KRAK

AAAAAHH!

YOU HAVE NO CHANCE HERE.

ALL YOUR KNIVES, ALL YOUR POISONS, AND STILL YOU'RE *NOTHING* COMPARED TO ME.

HEH.
HA HAHA...

THIS IS JUST THE START.

IT'S GOING TO END JUST LIKE IT DID LAST TIME! WITH YOU DEAD!

JUST LIKE I KILLED MY BROTHER!

CRNCH

THAT SOUND

OH, @#$%

SHOOK

UHN!

BOOM

THINK I BROKE SOMETHING. ON TOP OF THE STAB WOUNDS.

HTT!

BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE. LAST TIME I SAW ANA KRAVINOFF, SHE WAS ARROGANT. VICIOUS.

THAT'S CHANGED. NOW... NOW SHE'S MORE SAVAGE. SOMETHING ALMOST UNHINGED ABOUT HER...

huahh... KILL...KILL YOU...

SHE'S LOST IT. SHE'S--

THE CEILING

HKK... HU...

YOU SAVED ME...

SHUT UP.

YOU'VE GROWN *WEAK*. LIKE *SPIDER-MAN*.

SHUT UP!

HE'S COMING.

THE HUNTER IS COMING FOR YOU.

SHUT UP AND LISTEN TO ME.

IF I EVER SEE YOU AGAIN, I WILL...

I'LL--

THE POISON

MY FATHER IS GOING TO PUNISH YOU. HE'S GOING TO *KILL* YOU.

AND I'M GOING TO EAT YOUR HEART.

SHE'S GOING TO KILL ME... WHY DID I--

HAVE TO. HAVE TO GET--

--OUT!

COME ON, ARACELY... ANSWER.

ANSWER THE DAMN PHONE!

KAINE?!

KAINE!

HELP! SOMEBODY HELP ME!

HEY... HEY. IT'S OKAY.

OKAY?! YOU'RE BLEEDING, YOU'VE GOT BURNS...

I'VE HAD WORSE.

KAINE--

RUN AWAY FROM ME, ANNABELLE.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU GET HURT.

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

KAINE?!

Epilogue One.

THE NEXT MORNING

I SAID RENT IT OUT FOR BINGO, BUT DID ANYONE LISTEN TO ME? NO.

KIDS...

FATHER...

...CAN I TALK TO YOU?

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU SHOULD BE TALKING TO A DOCTOR. DO YOU NEED HELP?

I... I DO.

Pfft. OKAY. START TALKING.

I NEED TO KNOW WHY. I WAS GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE. BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND *WHY.*

I'M A BAD PERSON. I'VE DONE HORRIBLE THINGS. PART OF ME STILL WANTS TO DO HORRIBLE THINGS. BUT I'VE BEEN GIVEN THIS CHANCE.

I HAD A BROTHER... A GOOD MAN...BUT HE DIED. WHY SAVE ME, AND NOT HIM? I NEED TO UNDERSTAND.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, SON?

KAINE.

HOO-BOY. SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO.

IT STARTS WITH CONFESSION.

MY NAME IS KAINE.

THEY'RE CALLING ME SCARLET SPIDER NOW. ANOTHER MAN'S NAME... A BETTER MAN.

BUT I'M TRYING.

Epilogue Two.

THE SALAMANDER

‹XIUHCOATL'S CHAMPION.›
TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH
‹TIME TO WAKE.›
‹YOU FAILED QUITE SPECTACULARLY.›
‹THERE WAS A MAN... A SPIDER. HE INTERFERED, HE PROTECTED HER. LET ME OUT, I WILL KILL HIM--›
‹OH, I DON'T THINK SO. YOU ARE NEEDED AT HOME. THE *MEXICA* MUST BE PREPARED.›
‹THE WOLVES WILL DEAL WITH THE SPIDER. AND THE GIRL WILL DIE...›
Hnn?
‹WHAT-- WHERE AM I?›
I-- *DIOS.*
‹...AND THEN THE DARKNESS WILL COME.›

Epilogue Three.
MADAME WEB

WE CAN DO ANYTHING YOU WANT, RACHEL!

BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO!

IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT. HOW ABOUT THE ZOO?

NO! I SWEAR!

YOU ALREADY KNOW WE'RE GOING TO THE ZOO, DON'T YOU?

MOM!

NO.

MOM?

AAAAAAHHHH!

AAAAAAHHHH!

MOM?!

AAAAAAHHHH!

AAAAAAHHHH!

MOM, PLEASE--! WHAT DO I DO?! MOMMY!

AHHHH... AHH... SHE--

SHE'S COMING BACK.

SHE'S COMING FOR KAINE.

Next: The Second Master

Epilogue Four.

ANA KRAVINOFF.

IS HE DEAD?

NO, PAPA.

THEN YOU LISTENED. GOOD GIRL.

TELL ME WHAT YOU LEARNED.

THE HOTEL. THE DOCTOR, THE POLICEMAN... THE GIRL. THE BARTENDER. I SAW IT ALL.

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE.

HE'S CHANGED.

HOW?

HE WOULDN'T KILL ME.

HE'S PRETENDING TO BE A *HERO*, AND IT'S MADE HIM SOFT.

...DID YOU THINK THIS WOULD PLEASE ME?

I...NO.

WILL YOU KILL ME NOW?

NOT YET, ANA.

FOR WE HAVE HUNTING TO DO.

SCARLET SPIDER SAGA

THE LIGHT, HOWEVER D.M., PAINS HIS EYES THE AIR, HOWEVER WELCOME, BURNS HIS LUNGS
HE STANDS ON UNSTEADY LEGS, TRIES TO FOCUS UNSTEADY THOUGHTS, AND FINDS HIMSELF NEARLY TOPPLING BACK INTO THE CHEMICAL-TANK.
EASY DOES IT, MY NEW-BORN FRIEND. DON'T RUSH. TAKE YOUR TIME.
YOU'VE GOT YOUR WHOLE LIFE AHEAD OF YOU.

WHEN Empire State University biochemistry professor Miles Warren learned student Gwen Stacy had been killed in a battle between Spider-Man and the Green Goblin (Norman Osborn), his infatuation with Stacy spurred him to perfect the process of human cloning using DNA from Gwen and Spider-Man's alter ego, Peter Parker. Unknown to him, Warren was aided by the Goblin, who had feigned his death and sent a representative to work with Warren — all part of an elaborate plot by Osborn to torment and destroy Spider-Man.

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE GAG IS, BUT I'M NOT LAUGHING!
NEITHER AM I, HANDSOME.
EITHER YOU TELL ME WHERE THE JACKAL IS HIDING, AND WHAT HE'S DONE WITH GWEN AND NED LEEDS, OR I'LL--

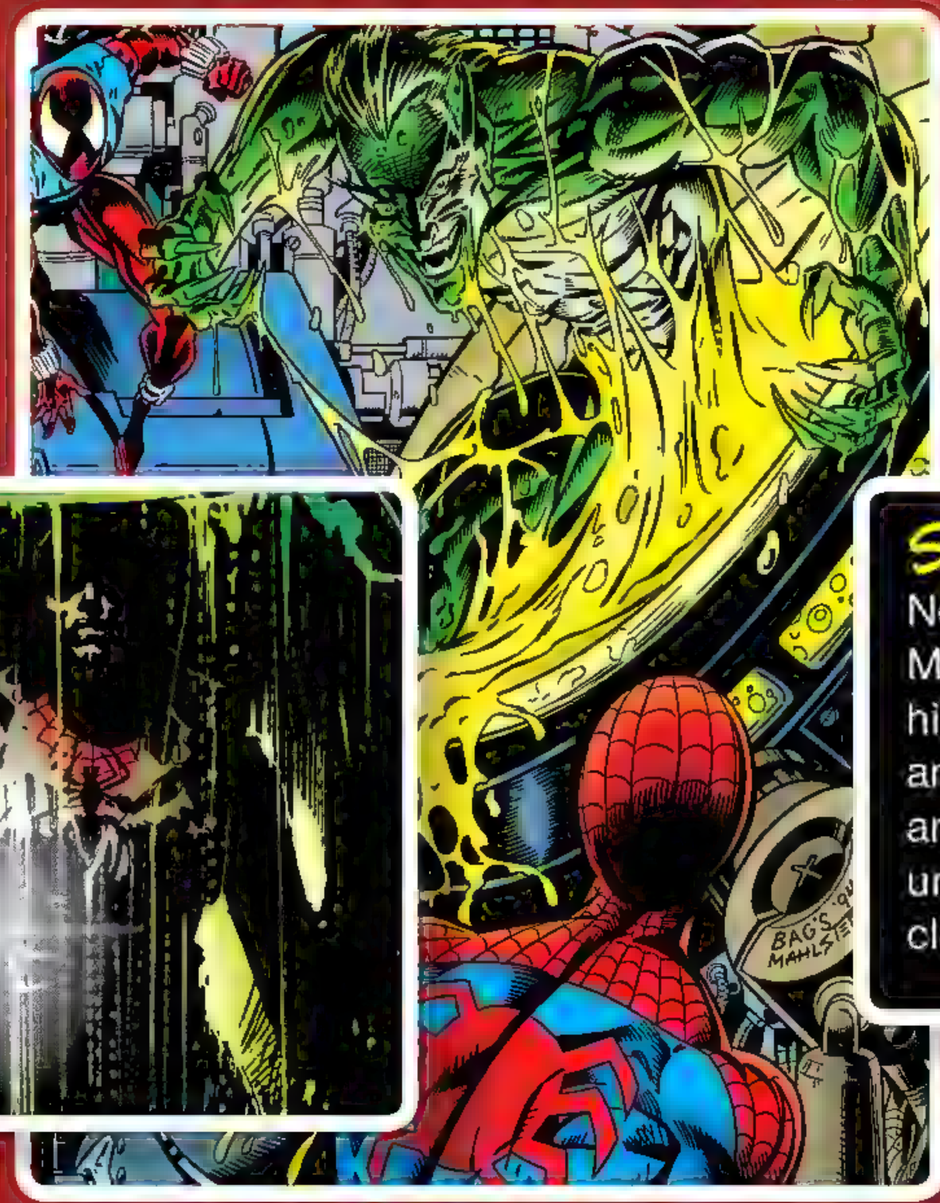
WARREN, in his guise as the Jackal, eventually pitted the Spider-Man clone against the real Spider-Man — a battle that ended with the clone seemingly killed by an explosion. Spider-Man disposed of his duplicate in a smokestack, though the Jackal retrieved him afterwards.

REVIVED, the clone named himself Ben Reilly after Peter Parker's Uncle Ben and Aunt May Reilly Parker, and then traveled the country for the next five years. He was frequently pursued by the unstable early Parker clone Kaine, who believed Reilly to be the true Spider-Man. Ben also maintained distant contact with May Parker and was befriended by Seward Trainer, Warren's former assistant.

BEN tried to find happiness despite his past. In Portland, Oregon, he became assistant to research scientist Damon Ryder, who experimented on himself with human-dinosaur hybrid cells and gained superhuman powers. Driven mad, Ryder murdered his own family, but blocked it out, believing Reilly to be the killer. Years later, Ryder would attack Peter Parker, thinking him to be Ben.

WHEN Ben learned May Parker was hospitalized, he returned to New York, unaware May was actually an actress hired by Norman Osborn to impersonate her. Seeking to visit May, Ben found himself once again face-to-face with the true Peter Parker.

AFTER a brief skirmish, the two Spider-Men teamed up to battle the enigmatic Judas Traveller and defeat the insane, symbiote-wearing Carnage. Reilly then created a costume and modified paraphernalia for himself, becoming known as the Scarlet Spider. He battled Spider-Man foes such as Venom, Tombstone and the Grim Hunter.

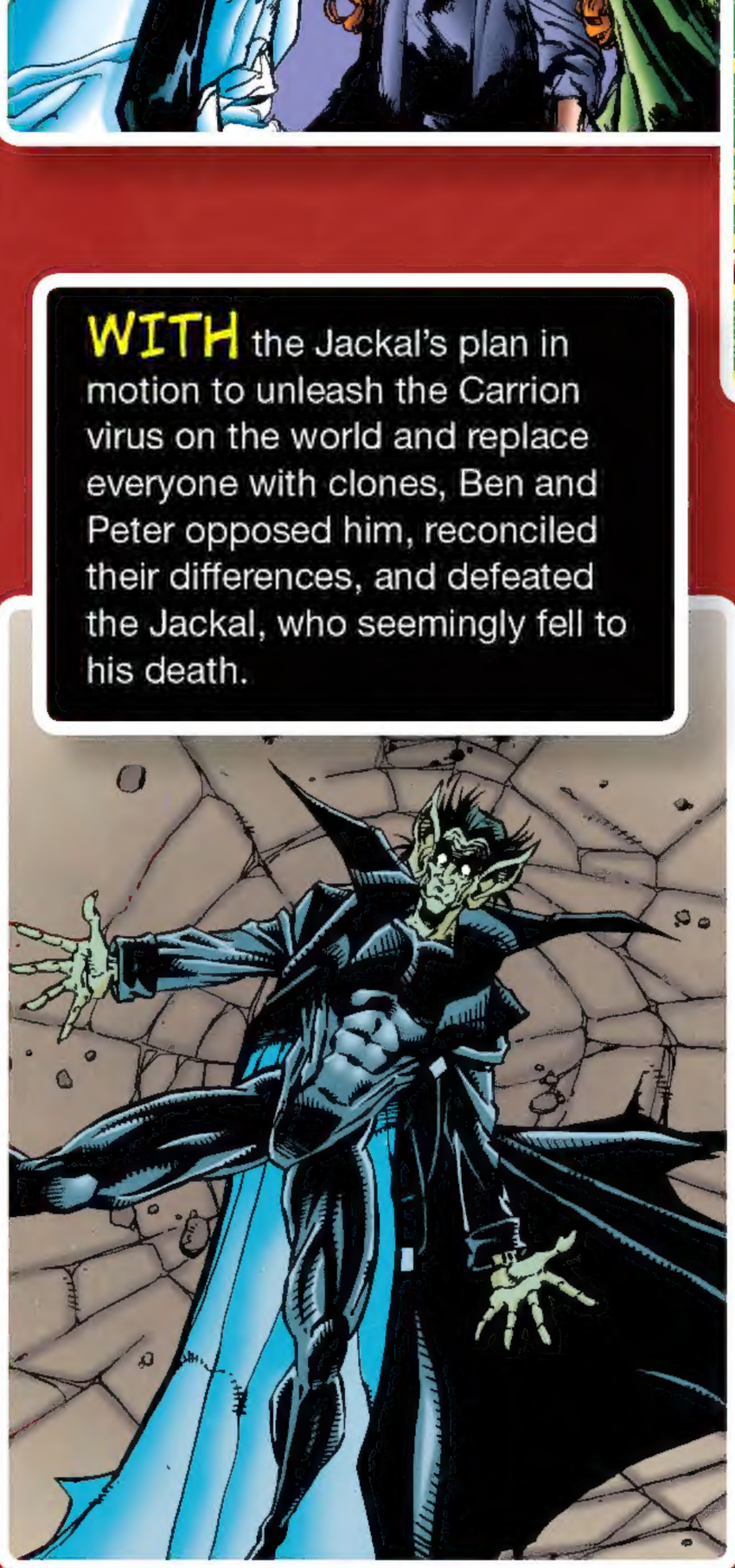


SEWARD Trainer returned to New York and attempted to find Ben. Meanwhile, the Jackal revealed himself to be alive. He seeded lies and mistrust by claiming both Ben and Peter were clones, and then unleashing another Peter Parker he claimed was the real one.

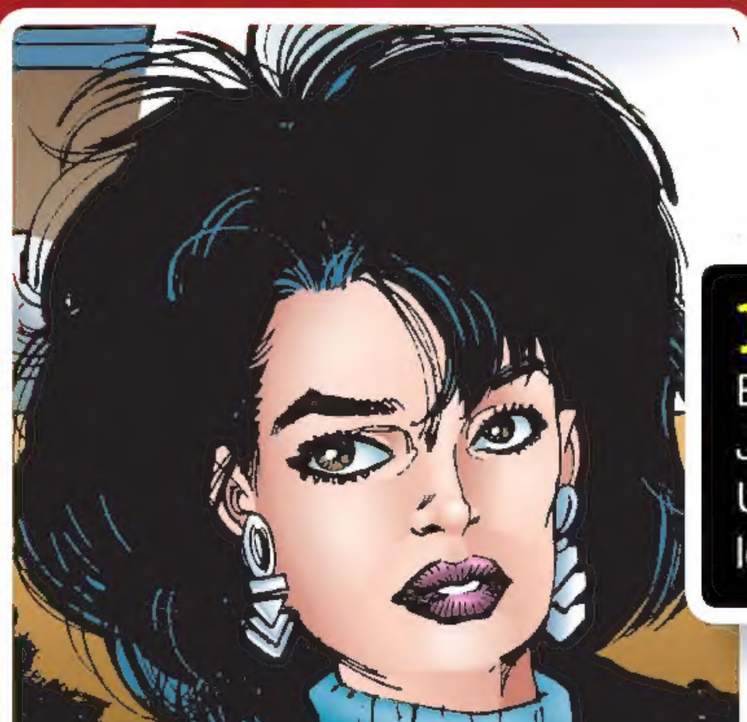
AFTER "Aunt May's" death, Ben's past caught up with him, and Peter Parker was imprisoned for a murder committed by Kaine because they all possessed the same fingerprints. Ben took Peter's place in jail so Parker could search for the truth behind the crimes, and Kaine eventually admitted to the murder.

OSBORN then had his former partner Mendel Stromm blackmail Seward Trainer into falsifying test results to make Peter believe he was the clone and Ben the original Spider-Man, driving a wedge between them. Meanwhile, the clone Jackal had claimed was the true Peter Parker became Jackal's ally, Spidercide.

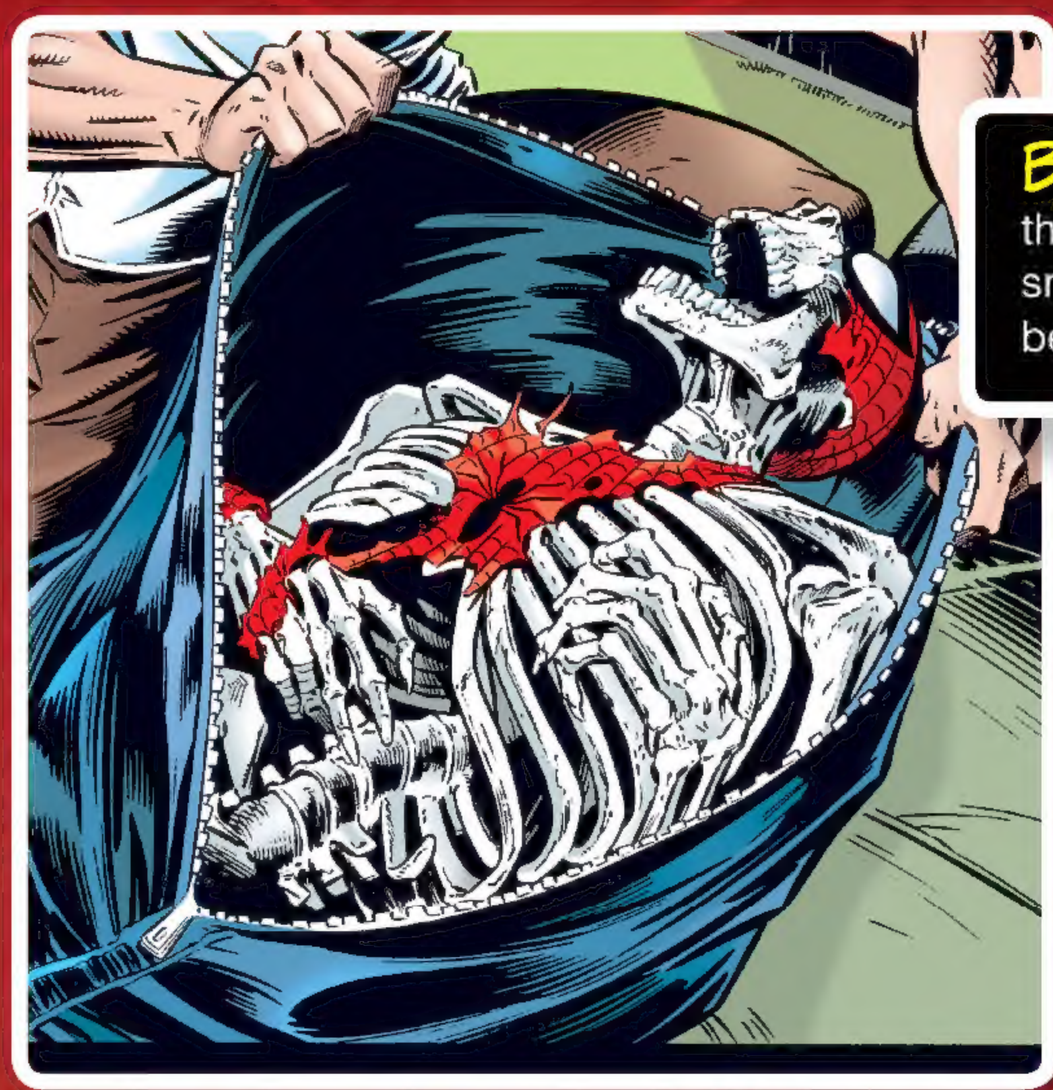
WITH the Jackal's plan in motion to unleash the Carrion virus on the world and replace everyone with clones, Ben and Peter opposed him, reconciled their differences, and defeated the Jackal, who seemingly fell to his death.



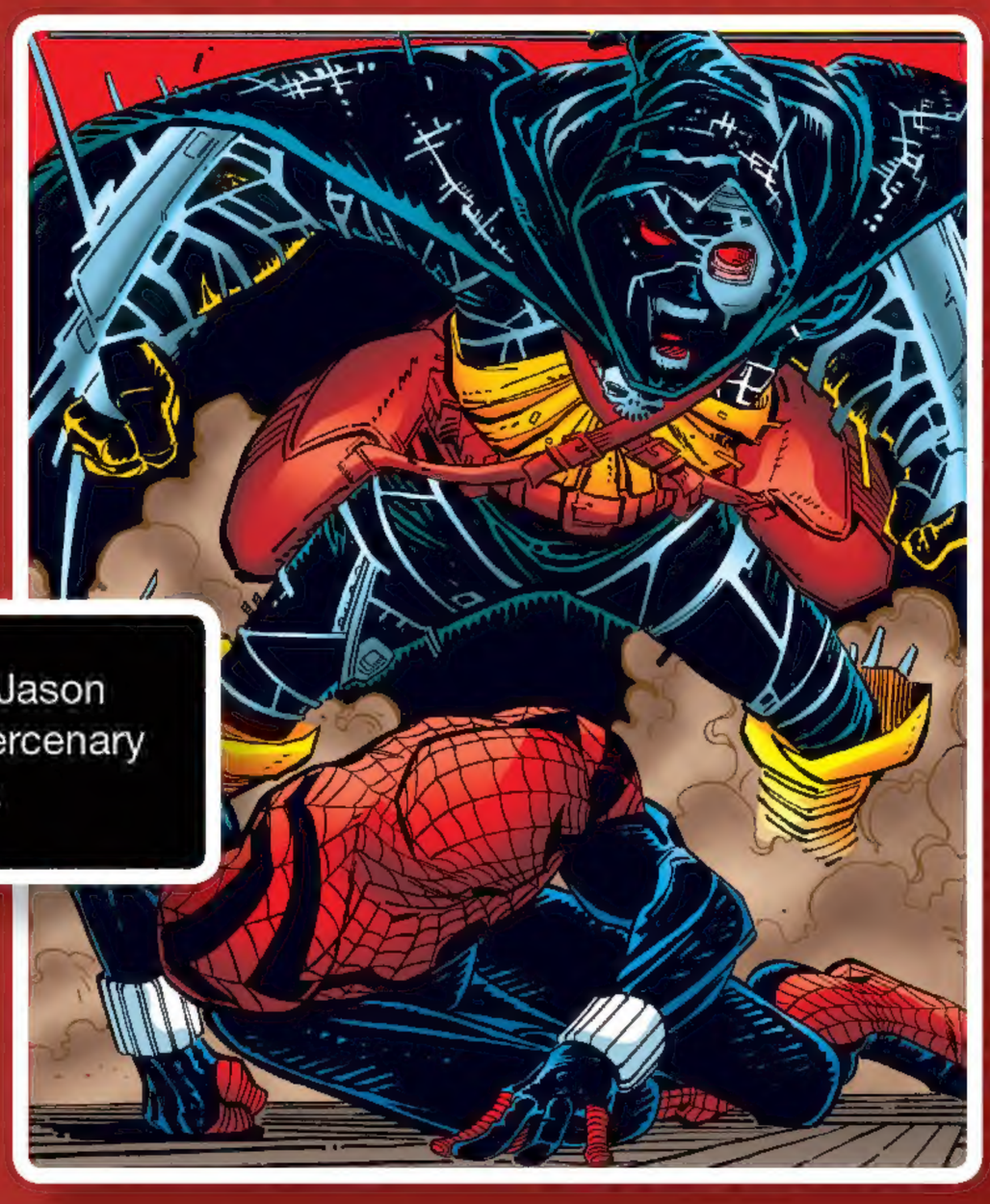
AFTER several adventures with the New Warriors, the Scarlet Spider was finally asked to join the team, and he accepted. Deciding his responsibility to his pregnant wife was more important, Peter relinquished the Spider-Man identity to Ben — who created a new costume, dyed his hair blond and took a job at the Daily Grind coffee house.



IMMEDIATELY thrust back into the life of Spider-Man, Ben found himself battling old villains and being pursued by Jessica Carradine, vengeful daughter of the burglar who killed Uncle Ben. He became romantically involved with her until she learned he was Spider-Man.



BEHIND the scenes, Norman Osborn facilitated the discovery of yet another clone corpse in the very smokestack in which Peter Parker had left Ben years before, causing Ben and Peter more confusion.



OSBORN also had Stromm hire Jason Macendale, the Hobgoblin, and his mercenary group Cell-12 to attack Ben and Peter.

OSBORN finally returned to the forefront, having Seward Trainer killed and personally subduing Ben. He then kidnapped Peter, announced himself as the true orchestrator behind the Jackal's machinations and revealed Ben was indeed the clone.

AFTER being beaten by Parker, Osborn attempted a last-ditch attack, and Ben sacrificed himself to save Peter from being impaled by the Goblin's glider. As Ben died in Peter's arms and his body degenerated, Peter realized he was the one, true Spider-Man as he mourned the man who was his "brother."

YEARS later, Kaine — now reformed — would honor Ben's memory by becoming the new Scarlet Spider.

WRITER: ROGER OTT
DESIGNER: ARLENE SO

SPECIAL THANKS TO MIKE FICHERA

#1 VARIANT BY RYAN STEGMAN & FRANK MARTIN JR.

#1 VARIANT BY MARK BAGLEY, MARK FARMER & MARTE GRACIA

#1 VENOM VARIANT BY MIKE PERKINS & JOHN RAUCH

#4 AVENGERS ART APPRECIATION VARIANT BY MICHAEL DEL MUNDO

ALL OF THE POWER, NONE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY!

A science experiment gone terribly wrong, a killer searching for atonement, a fugitive on the run, a vigilante delivering extreme justice by any means necessary… a Spider-Man?!

When the imperfect clone of Peter Parker and former super villain Kaine attempts to flee the country and start his life over on the sandy shores of a Mexican beach, he makes it as far as Houston — where he stumbles upon an international human-trafficking ring. But lacking the moral fiber and heroic constitution of his genetic twin Peter Parker, Kaine must decide between action and apathy — and define his own brand of justice in the process as the Scarlet Spider! And finding himself on the wrong side of the merciless Assasins Guild, will the Scarlet Spider fight to protect the citizens of Houston, or leave his adoptive city to fend for itself?

Collecting *Scarlet Spider #1-6* and material from *Point One #1*— written by Chris Yost (*X-Force*), and illustrated by Ryan Stegman (*Incredible Hulk*) and Neil Edwards (*Fantastic Four*).

STEGMAN
MIKEY
+MARTEGRACIA~

MARVEL